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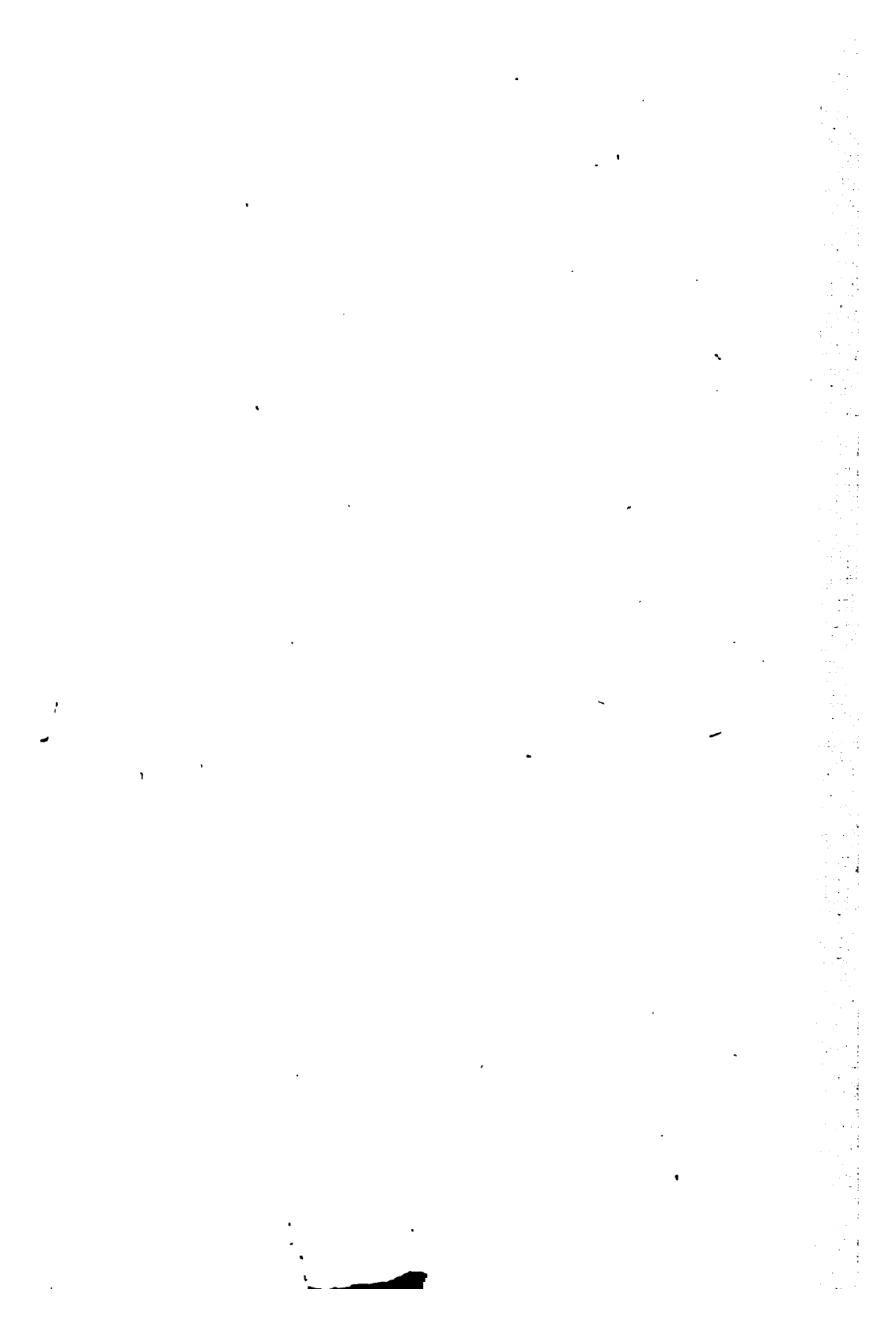
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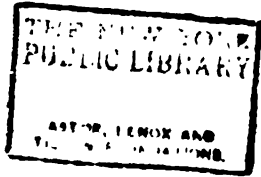
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REPORT

OF THE

 PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1903

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(X)

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Department of Parks

Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

Board of Commissioners

Appointed under the Act,

Approved March 5, 1895

1903

NEWARK, N. J.:

BAKER PRINTING COMPANY

251 MARKET STREET

W. L.

Commissioners and Officers

ROBERT F. BALLANTINE, -	Term expires	1905
CYRUS PECK, - - - -	" "	1906
WILLIAM A. BREWER, Jr.	" "	1907
FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,	" "	1908
JOHN R. HARDIN, -	" "	1909

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CYRUS PECK.

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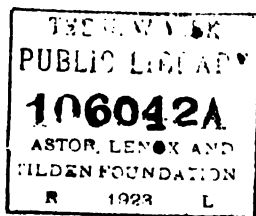
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PARK COMMISSIONER, JULY 31ST TO NOV. 26TH, 1903

REPORT.

800 BROAD ST., NEWARK, N. J.

August 1st, 1904.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its eighth annual report.

The Commission is called upon again, in discussing the events of the past year, to record the death of one of its members. Howard W. Hayes, Esq., was appointed to succeed the late Eugene Vanderpool on July 31st, just before the last report went to press. He died on November 26th, 1903, having served less than four months, and without finishing Mr. Vanderpool's unexpired term. Mr. Hayes was a lawyer of the highest reputation, and although his connection with this Board was brief his interest in and careful attention to the work made his loss severely felt by his colleagues. The following minute was adopted by the Board at a special meeting called for that purpose:

"It becomes the painful duty of this Board to record again for the second time within five months, the death of one of its members. The Commission feels that in the loss of Howard W. Hayes, who died on November 26th, 1903, it has been deprived of the assistance of a keen and energetic mind. His connection with the Board was brief, but during the three months in which he served as Commissioner and Treasurer he took an active part in the work

and did much to assist his colleagues in the undertakings of the Board. Knowing his distinguished ability and marked success in his professional career the Commissioners regret sincerely that he did not live to give for a longer period his services to the County. The Commissioners desire further to express their deepest sympathy for his family, and especially for his widow, the daughter of his predecessor on this Board, who in so short a time has been compelled to bear the overwhelming burden of two such crushing sorrows."

On the fourteenth day of December, 1903, John R. Hardin, Esq., was appointed by Chief Justice Gummere to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hayes and Mr. Vanderpool, and on its expiration last April, he was reappointed for a full term of five years.

The Commission on the 12th day of October last received from the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex the sum of \$500,000, which was the first installment of the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for further construction which the people endorsed at the polls on November 4th, 1902. This date marked the end of the delay caused by an unsuccessful attack on the constitutionality of the park law, and made it possible for the Commission, after eleven months of inaction to proceed with the work as outlined in its report for 1901. No time has been lost this year and the various items of improvement are progressing with gratifying rapidity. Contracts have been let for the subway bridges in Branch Brook Park and call for their completion by October 1st next. The cost of the Park avenue

structure will be \$84,000, while that of the Bloomfield avenue subway will be \$34,000. The Commission has improved the grade of Park avenue by filling up the hollow which formerly existed at the point where the bridge is to be located. In so doing it was necessary to deflect the course of the avenue slightly, and permission to do this was granted by the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark. As soon as the bridge is completed on its new alignment the space formerly occupied by the roadway will be planted with trees and shrubs. In addition to relieving the grade the introduction of this curve is a great improvement to the scenic effect of the park. It breaks the long, straight dusty road line which formerly marred the landscape, and conceals the highway with lawns and trees, so that the visitor approaching from the east instead of looking directly across the park sees more of the beauty within it. Owing to this change of alignment, traffic is not interfered with during the construction. In the case of Bloomfield avenue subway, however, it was necessary to build a trestle to carry the trolley cars and wagons around the work, as no change in the grade of Bloomfield avenue is contemplated. The dirt excavated from Bloomfield avenue is being utilized to fill in a tract of about thirty-two acres in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park, which at present is low and swampy. This will be used as an additional game field, on completion. Although these bridges were described in our last annual report, their importance makes it proper to repeat that description more in detail here.

The south face of the Park avenue bridge will be located thirty-three feet north of the old north curb line of Park avenue, and the centre of the bridge will be two hundred and sixty-seven feet west of the west curb line of Lake street. The construction used in both bridges is what is known as the Melan system, which consists of steel ribs having the same general curve as the arch, running longitudinally across the arch. These ribs being imbedded in concrete no portion of the steel work is exposed to view. The surface of the bridge will be of concrete, excepting the balustrade, the piers and the pilons above them. This ornamental work will be of artificial stone closely resembling cut Indiana lime stone. The pilons will be each surmounted with an ornamental lamp. The Park avenue bridge will be one of the largest of this design in this country. It will have a clear span of one hundred and thirty feet, including the thickness of the walls. Through the arch will run three fifteen foot walks, a forty foot driveway and a forty foot waterway, connecting the lakes in the Southern and Middle Divisions. The width of the bridge will be about seventy-five feet, which will permit a forty foot roadway and two fifteen foot walks on Park avenue. The Bloomfield avenue bridge, while much smaller, will be of similar design. It will consist of a single arch with a seventy foot span. This will enclose a fifteen foot path, a forty foot driveway and a fifteen foot waterway. There will be no boating connection with the pools in the Northern Division, however, as they are not large enough to permit of the sport. The width of this bridge will be about seventy feet,

allowing for a forty foot roadway and two twelve foot sidewalks on Bloomfield avenue.

As indicated in the last report the Park Commission as soon as it secured control of Park avenue, made an effort to persuade the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad to make its bridge carrying the avenue over the railroad tracks more park-like in effect. As the railroad company had secured the proper consents to elevate before the avenue passed into the custody of this Board, it declined to incur any additional cost. It was willing, however, to carry out the suggestions of this Commission, provided it was reimbursed for so doing. To this the Park Board has agreed, and a bridge more in accordance with park ideas than the one suggested by the railroad is in course of construction. The estimated cost to this Board of the improvement is from \$15,000 to \$20,000; the railroad plan provided for the depression of the present track about five and one-half feet and the building of a viaduct between North Eleventh street, Newark, and North Fifteenth street, East Orange. This viaduct was to be built on the northerly side of the avenue so as to avoid encroaching on land on the southerly side. Its width was to have been fifty feet, which provided for only one sidewalk and the grade was to have been five per cent. in East Orange and six per cent. in Newark. The present plan provides for a viaduct seventy feet in width carrying a forty foot roadway and two twelve and one-half foot walks. The grade in Newark has been reduced to four and eight-tenths per cent., that in East Orange remaining at five per cent. The viaduct has

been placed in the centre of the avenue, and service roads of thirty feet in width are planned at grade on either side. The municipal authorities of Newark and East Orange have given their consent to these changes and the work is rapidly progressing under the direction of the railroad company. Still another bridge that is planned by the Board is one at Weequahic Reservation. This will carry the drive which now circles the lake over the tracks of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, giving access to the reservation from the Upper Elizabeth road. This work has not yet been begun, but bids for it will shortly be requested. The expense is estimated at about \$15,000.

Two improvements have been made in the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park during the past year, which have added greatly to its attractiveness. The United Singers of Newark presented to the County an heroic-sized bronze bust of Mendelssohn, won as a prize at the saengerfest held at Baltimore in the summer of 1902. The Board in accordance with one of its rules requested a committee from the National Sculpture Society to pass upon the artistic merits of the statue before accepting it. This committee, headed by J. Q. A. Ward, the distinguished sculptor, declared it to be in every way artistic, and the Board thereupon gladly gave its consent. The members of the Societies erected the pedestal, a handsome shaft of granite, at their own expense, and it was unveiled on May 23rd last. It is a great gratification to the Commission to observe the interest taken by the people in the parks as thus indicated, and it is hoped that others may follow this

example of public spirit. It should be said, however, that this Board wishes only decorations of real merit in the parks, and will not accept anything of a decorative character without a favorable report thereon from competent experts. The necessity of this rule may be seen by noting the numbers of very ugly statues which disfigure many of the parks throughout the country. Moreover, having applied the test to one work of art it would be unfair now to lower the standard. The pleasure of the Commission caused by this gift is best summed up in the speech of acceptance by the President of this Board which was as follows :

“GENTLEMEN :—It is a great pleasure to the Park Commission in behalf of the County of Essex, to accept this beautiful work of art, a fitting memorial to one of the world's great geniuses, a man who elevated and ennobled his fellows by the wise use of a God-given talent. Viewed in this light it cannot fail to be an inspiration and an incentive to all to strive for noble things. It will also prove a lasting token of the artistic success of our singing societies, which represent so large a portion of our people. It stands for hard work, pains-taking preparation and musical ability, crowned with the success which follows earnest effort. It will be a gratification to our citizens whenever they look upon it to realize that their representatives were victorious in the contest, and will doubtless urge others on to strive for, and we trust win, the prizes of future years. Moreover it is a convincing proof to my fellow commissioners and

me of the interest taken by the people in the development and perfection of our parks. It was a public spirited act to place it here and to provide its handsome setting where it can be seen and enjoyed by thousands. The parks are created for the people, and it is a great satisfaction to have the people contribute in this way to their adornment. We rejoice that the work that has been done in the parks has been thus endorsed with your approval, and aided by your co-operation. We hope that this fair statue, placed as it is in this beautiful environment of natural scenery, won as it was in the noblest of contests,—a struggle of talent against talent,—may imbue others with a greater pride in these pleasure grounds and arouse in them a desire to assist in their further embellishment.”

The other added attraction to this Division is the fountain in the circular reservoir. The Commission erected the fountain at an expense of \$2,000, having first obtained the consent of the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark, under whose control the Reservoir is. The water is furnished without expense to the County so that for an extremely moderate cost there has been created a feature of unusual beauty.

The fountain is fed from the twenty-four inch city main through a ten inch pipe branching off and supplying a six inch pipe ring of fifty feet in diameter. This ring has sixteen two inch nozzles. Inside this fifty foot ring is a four inch pipe ring of twenty-five feet in diameter which has eight two inch nozzles. At the centre of the smaller ring

which is also the centre of the reservoir is a four inch stand pipe with nine nozzles. The water from the centre nozzle is thrown to a height of fifty feet and that from the inner and outer circles thirty-five and twenty feet respectively from the surface of the water in the reservoir.

The water used in the fountain is taken from the Newark high pressure system, but there is absolutely no waste, as the water after being discharged through the fountain is used for the low service system.

The aeration of the water improves its quality also. The fountain discharges over 400,000 gallons daily, and this Commission is informed by the Water Department of the City of Newark that this discharge is greater than that from any other fountain in the world. If this Board were compelled to pay for the water at meter rates the expense would be prohibitive, about \$80,000 per year. Owing to the cordial co-operation of the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of Newark, however, the Board was enabled to install it at small expense, and its maintenance costs nothing. The fountain was designed by the late Eugene Vanderpool and Mr. Morris R. Sherrerd, Engineer of the Water Department of the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark.

The Northern Division of Branch Brook Park is also being improved. The unsightly wooden sheds which stood near the green houses have been taken away, and in their place has been erected a brick and concrete stable with wooden sheds at a cost of \$9,000.

It connects with the old stable and is seventy-two feet long by twenty-nine feet wide, contains a carriage house and stalls for fifteen horses, harness room and all equipments. There are concrete floors on the first story and the Ransom system of fire proofing is used on the second floor of the carriage house. The entire brick structure is to be covered by cement pebble dash finish and has slate roof and copper gutters and leaders. The stable is connected with the park drainage system. The wooden sheds attached to this stable contain a blacksmith shop and a carpenter shop. There is also a two-story building shingled with cedar and left to stain with the weather. The size of this building is twenty-four by thirty-two feet. In addition there is a shed seventy-six by twenty-four feet enclosed with sliding doors, and one hundred and twenty-five by twenty-two feet of open shed. The buildings together form a hollow square.

This stable and adjoining structures were absolutely essential in order to properly house the horses which the Commission owns and to afford shelter for the wagons and machinery. It is the ultimate intention of the Board to surround this group of buildings with trees and shrubs so that it may be as inconspicuous a feature of the landscape as possible. This is technically called "planting out." The greenhouses have been treated in this way most successfully.

The entrance to the park at Elwood avenue has been constructed, and the surrounding land has been improved and developed. It was necessary in order to connect it with the park to close small portions

of Elwood avenue, the old Bloomfield road and First street, which was successfully accomplished through the courtesy of the authorities of the City of Newark.

The Commission has installed a driven well in this division near the green houses. It has a ten inch bore and yields over two hundred thousand gallons a day. It is two hundred and fifty feet deep. The water will be used to supply the brook and pools which empty into the lake near Bloomfield avenue. The Board for the past few years has been using the water of the City of Newark, taking one hundred thousand gallons per day. But even this amount, which is only half the yield of the well, was found to be too great a drain on the maintenance appropriation. The Commission is considering the advisability of sinking additional wells and establishing its own water supply. A great deal of water is required during the summer months for the lawns, flowers and shrubbery, and the bills at meter rates are very large.

The band concerts in the various parks have become so popular that the Commission has erected a band stand in Eastside, Westside, Orange and Branch Brook Parks. On every concert night the parks are crowded, and the people give evidence of greatly enjoying the music and the cool air. The estimate of the largest gathering this year was twenty thousand persons at the opening concert of the season at Branch Brook Park.

The stand at Branch Brook Park is circular, about thirty feet in diameter. It is classical in architecture, with stucco base on which are Doric

columns, a balustrade and cornice. It has a dome capped roof with panelled ceiling. The one at Westside Park is somewhat Swiss in character. It is twenty-four feet square with stucco base with ornamental balustrade. It has a shingled roof supported by turned columns. At Eastside Park the rustic idea has been followed. The stand is an elongated octagon, fifteen feet by twenty-four feet with balustrades from the ground up, consisting of natural spruce poles, and a steep pitched overhanging shingled roof supported on eight natural chestnut posts.

In Orange Park the pavilion is circular with a wide roof forty-five feet in diameter, supported on eight natural chestnut posts. The band stand is eighteen feet in diameter, with seats running around the outside. The whole surface is faced with brick extending six feet beyond the posts.

Excellent progress is being made in the improvement of Montclair Park, and it is hoped to get the ground in condition for fall planting. A large portion of the land dedicated to park purposes was very low and swampy, but the Board has always held that one of the chief duties of park makers is to reclaim this sort of property, and change its character from a menace to the public health to a benefit to the surrounding land. This theory has been successfully carried out at Branch Brook Park, Orange Park and Westside Park and the Board feels that the scheme will be successful here. A thorough under drainage system has been installed, and about eight thousand yards of filling material has been used to raise the level and improve the grade. At

the southerly end of the park an area of about one and one-quarter acres is being so graded that in winter it can be flooded and used for skating purposes. There will be no driveways running across the park, but some forty-five hundred square yards of gravel walk will be built. A water system is being put in for watering the lawns and plantations.

The work in the reservations has been confined chiefly to completing the acquirement. Some property still remains to be secured in South Mountain Reservation, but otherwise the land desired by the Board is in its possession. The forestry work at Eagle Rock Reservation has been completed, and that at South Mountain is proceeding under the direction of Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, and supervised by an educated forester. There is always a great deal of misapprehension in regard to wood cutting in public reservations, and many suppose that the best way to develop trees is to leave them to themselves. There could be no greater mistake. With few exceptions the original woodland has been cut over many times, and hardly a vestige of the primeval forest remains. After the visit of the wood-chopper the more rapidly growing trees and those that can most readily withstand forest fires crowd out their slowly maturing comrades. Hence it is that the oaks and the chestnuts largely predominate in a neglected wood. Fully half of these trees are sucker growths, that is, offshoots from the stumps of old trees, and are very short lived, lasting only from thirty to forty years and never attaining a very large size. The province of the forester is to restore the trees to the condition in which they were before

the advent of the woodchopper. In the first place, thinning must be done that the trees may not become tall and spindling, but may round out into their natural forms. Sucker growths are always cut where possible and the seedling trees preserved. The next step is to diversify the forest, to reintroduce the more delicate and slow growing trees and destroy that sense of sameness which comes from long vistas of one variety of tree.

For example the beech, one of the most beautiful of forest trees was comparatively rare in the reservations, and the pines and hemlocks had been practically exterminated. Wherever these trees were found they were developed, the more ordinary trees which crowded about them were removed and they were given a chance to grow and multiply. A tree needs air and light just as a man does. If they are allowed to grow too closely together and the underbrush is not cut away, many of them will die, and those that remain will be tall and thin, lacking entirely their natural beauty. A tree needs food also. There is not enough nourishment in an acre of ordinary land to support all the trees that would grow upon it. Thus it is that the wisdom of the forester must be called in to curb somewhat the wantonness of Nature and to protect and develop the real forest. Trees must be cut, but the fittest must be saved. In deciding the question of fitness, the seedling is given the preference of the sucker, and the rarer, before the ordinary varieties. The condition of the individual tree, however, often enters into the decision, as for example, a beech which has been badly burned by a forest fire, may be taken down to

make room for a healthy chestnut. Before beginning the work of tree thinning the Commission had prepared a map of the twenty-five hundred acres in South Mountain Reservation on which the trees are indicated, with their variety and condition. The experts studied this map and concluded what trees it would be necessary to destroy. After confirming their conclusions by a personal inspection the condemned trees were each tagged with a piece of red flannel and cut out by gangs of workmen, under the direction of the forester. The result of intelligent forestry is apparent in a short time. The trees round out into more stately form, and the finer specimens are brought into greater prominence. The removal of the underbrush lessens the danger from forest fires,—the worst enemy of trees,—and allows the ferns and wild flowers to carpet the ground and add to the beauty of the sylvan scenery. There is no expense attached to the forestry work of the reservations. It pays for itself. The cut wood has been sold in such an advantageous manner that it has entirely paid for this work, including the destruction of the sprout growths which will generally recur for three years, and has netted a small profit besides. There are some trees of great beauty in the reservation, and the Board is particularly proud of a very fine group of cedars in South Mountain Reservation on Brookside Drive. The greatest enemy the reservations have, aside from the forest fire, is the vandal; the man who is unable to enjoy a beautiful dogwood bloom without tearing it down, or to admire a mountain laurel without uprooting it. The Park Commission has used every means in

its power to impress upon the public that there are not enough trees and shrubs in the Reservations to give of their flowers and branches to every citizen who visits them. Special guards are detailed in December to prevent all the evergreens that have escaped the woodchopper from being turned into Christmas trees. In the spring the dogwood has to be especially protected, and in the fall the chestnut, the elder berry and the sumach have to be guarded. Circulars have been printed and handed to all visitors, signs have been erected appealing to the people, and arrests have been made. Announcements have been read each spring in every public school in the County and the public press has done all in its power to condemn the evil. The nuisance cannot be entirely stopped, however, until a public sentiment is aroused that will make it impossible. It is with this end in view that we republish here the circular issued last year.

"The Essex County Park Commission has been greatly hindered in its efforts to make attractive the parks and reservations under its control, by the constant picking of flowers and shrubs. This is particularly the case in the Mountain Reservations, Eagle Rock and South Mountain. The Commission desires to keep these large stretches of mountain landscape as nearly as possible in their original state that the public may thoroughly enjoy their beautiful natural scenery. Thousands of dollars of public money have been spent with this end in view. This object cannot be achieved unless the shrubs and flowers are permitted to grow undisturbed.

"During the present year the reservations have been so stripped of flowers and flowering plants that they are rapidly being denuded. The rule of the Commission in this regard is as follows:

"No person shall cut, break, deface, defile, or ill-use any building, fence, tree, bush, plant, or other thing belonging to the Essex County Parks, or have possession of any part thereof.

"There is a penalty for the violation of this rule. The Essex County Park Commission, therefore, earnestly urges that all visitors to the parks and reservations abstain entirely from picking or having in their possession, any flower, branch or shrub therein: and moreover that they do what they can to persuade others to live up to this rule."

The Commission had intended to set out and cultivate the mountain laurel and the wild azalea, which have almost entirely disappeared from the mountains, but at present this would be useless, and will not be attempted until less difficulty is experienced in the preservation of the trees and shrubs that now exist.

After much study and thought in the matter, the Board has determined the question as to the proper treatment of Weequahic Lake. Two methods were suggested for ridding the water of the reedy growths which now disfigure it. The first, advocated by Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, provided for dredging the lake to a uniform depth of twelve feet; the other plan provided for raising the level of the water five feet. This, it was contended, would separate the bogs from the bottom and they could easily be taken

from the surface of the water. The latter plan was adopted. Its cost was very much less, the expense of the first plan being estimated at \$250,000, and of this one at only \$50,000. A dam was built across the northern end of the lake and during the winter the water was allowed to accumulate. A few months ago the proper level was reached and it was found that the bogs rose to the surface of the water. Arrangements are now being made to let a contract for cleaning them from the surface. The Board is informed that the added depth of the water will prevent any further growths. It is much to be regretted, however, that the raising of the level of the lake has killed some of the trees along the shore. This was foreseen, but the Commission felt it to be a necessary sacrifice in view of the enormous cost of the other plan. Weequahic Lake is the most beautiful sheet of water in Essex County. It is almost a mile long and from four hundred to six hundred feet wide. When the work of cleaning is complete it will be an ideal place for aquatic sports. The Road Horse Association continues to hold its Saturday afternoon meets at the track at this Reservation, and they are extremely popular.

The contract let last fall for that portion of the East Orange Parkway between Park avenue and William street has been completed. This finishes the Parkway from Park avenue to Main street. The remaining section between Main street and Central avenue has been graded and the sanitary sewers and water pipes have been put in. Nothing further can be done until the question of the disposal of the storm water has been decided by the City of East

Orange. The Commission has done everything in its power to further the matter, and it is a source of great regret that it cannot proceed with its work and finish the parkway as it has been anxious to do for so long.

Aside from the bridge over the railroad on Park avenue, heretofore mentioned, the Park Commission has spent three thousand dollars on the improvement of this avenue, and during the summer has had the street watered throughout its entire length, from Bloomfield avenue to the mountain, something never before attempted.

The question of parkways is still unsettled. The Commission made an earnest effort last winter to secure the passage of a law permitting portions of streets or avenues to be turned over to its care, custody and control. It was hoped in this manner to meet the objections of those who contended that this Board, under the law as it now stands, must take all of a street or none. The law failed to pass. The question of a trolley franchise on Central avenue, East Orange, has been again revived, and the Board issued a statement as to its attitude in the matter. It is reproduced here and it may be said that it expresses the attitude which the Board has always maintained, and from which it has as yet seen no reason to depart:

“Owing to the revival of the controversy regarding the use of Central avenue as a parkway, the Park Commission deems it expedient to restate its position in the matter, in order that there may be no misunderstanding in any quarter as to the attitude of this board.

"In accordance with the recommendations of the landscape architects employed by the commission in 1896, the board, on October 19, 1896, passed a resolution asking from the various municipalities through which Park and Central avenues run, their care, custody and control. The idea was that these two great county avenues running from Newark through the Oranges to the mountains would connect the parks and reservations.

"Opposition to the transfer of Central avenue arose almost immediately. A large number of residents along that avenue desired the construction of a trolley upon it. The Park Commission said positively at the very start that a trolley and a parkway could not exist together on a street only one hundred feet wide. The commission was anxious to have Central avenue as a parkway, and considered it an important part of the park scheme. This view has been reiterated no less than twelve times in resolutions of the Board and official letters of the Commissioners.

"In order to convince the municipal boards of the desirability of this improvement, the Commission held several conferences with the authorities of Orange and East Orange. The detailed plans for the improvement of the avenue were prepared and submitted at these meetings. The policy of the Commission from the beginning has been a constant effort to obtain the avenue for a parkway, and the candid statement that it must either be a parkway without a trolley or a trolley avenue without a parkway. Whatever the Commission could do, in a proper and dignified manner, to obtain Central ave-

nue, has been done. The Board recognized, however, that there are a large number of people who really want a trolley on Central avenue. Therefore, as a county board, it declined to take a partisan stand when the matter of granting a trolley franchise came before the East Orange Common Council.

"The Common Council of East Orange and the Board of Chosen Freeholders granted the request of the trolley company for a trolley franchise, the freeholders at the same time refusing this Board's request for the use of the avenue as a parkway. The City of Orange has declined to turn over its rights in the avenue for parkway purposes on three distinct occasions.

"The Common Council of East Orange and the Board of Chosen Freeholders were fully aware that the Park Commission desired Central avenue as a parkway. They also knew that this Board would not accept as a parkway a one hundred foot street on which was a trolley. With these facts clearly before them they granted the trolley franchise. That having been done the Park Commission felt bound to consider this action as expressing the desire of a majority of the citizens of East Orange.

"The fact that the authorization of the Common Council has been set aside by the courts does not alter the attitude of this board. Until the action of the Common Council and the Board of Chosen Freeholders is reversed by these Boards themselves, this Commission feels bound to respect their action. They are the direct representatives of the people, and their judgment on questions relating so closely

to local affairs will always receive the most respectful consideration of this Board. The Park Commission must decline to take a partisan stand on the granting of a trolley franchise by the East Orange Common Council. It desires to obtain the avenue as a parkway and has repeatedly said so, and its requests for the transfer are now on file with the East Orange Common Council, the Orange Common Council and the Board of Freeholders. It would still be glad to accept that portion of Central avenue on which there is no trolley as a parkway, notwithstanding it requires for the carrying out of its present plans only that portion of the avenue that lies between the East Orange parkway and Orange Park.

"In order to smooth the way legally, the Board succeeded in having a bill passed at the last session of the Legislature which overcame certain objections, which had been raised to the transfer. Other legal technicalities were at once suggested and the Board caused a bill to be introduced into the present Legislature to cure the new trouble. It is presumed that should this bill pass, no further legal objections to the transfer could possibly be made. This inference is greatly strengthened by the fact that strong opposition to the bill has developed, and the Board has been informed that it cannot pass.

"In a word the Park Commission has done everything in its power to secure Central avenue for a parkway; it would still be glad to secure it should it be turned over to the Board without a trolley. The Commission must, however, positively decline, as it has repeatedly done before, to be drawn into a

partisan quarrel between two factions of citizens, each of whom it represents and for the interests of all of whom it is earnestly working. This board, moreover, feels bound to consider the action of other municipal bodies as correctly representing the wishes of their constituents, even though, as in this case, such action is not in harmony with the ideas of this commission, and until such official act is reversed by the Board which originated it, it must stand with the Park Commission as the desire of the people."

The Board is also considering the availability of the so-called Mosswood avenue route in connection with its parkway scheme. This would connect Orange Park with South Orange avenue and would be another link in the chain connecting the Newark parks and the mountain. The success of the plan depends very largely on the attitude of the property owners. The Board will not undertake the improvement if it entails a large expense for acquirement and development.

The report of the Treasurer, and the report of Messrs. Olmsted Brothers on forestry work are hereto appended.

Very respectfully,

CYRUS PECK,
FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
WILLIAM A. BREWER, JR.,
ROBERT F. BALLANTINE.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submits herewith a tabulated statement of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending December 31st, 1903 :

DEBIT.

Cash on hand January 2nd, 1903.....	\$119,523 17
Received from Essex County.....	615,098 63
Interest	2,408 94
Rents	3,517 26
Sales, wood, old material, etc.....	5,349 90
	\$745,896 90

CREDIT.

LAND.

Branch Brook Park	\$ 2,893 68	
Eastside Park,		
Westside Park,		
Orange Park,		
Watsessing Park,		
Montclair Park,		
Weequahic Reservation,		
Eagle Rock Reservation,		
South Mountain Reservation.....	1,341 00	
Parkways	8,350 46	
		\$12,585 14

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Branch Brook Park.....	\$66,692 09	
Eastside Park	3,250 01	
Westside Park	7,353 45	
Orange Park	9,457 33	
Watsessing Park	1,849 41	
Montclair Park	24 00	
Weequahic Reservation	6,625 23	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	7,217 14	
South Mountain Reservation.....	11,924 29	
Parkways	11,795 62	
		\$126,188 54

ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Grading,	
Paving and sewerage.....	\$ 8,617 83
Trees and plants.....	813 18
Labor	97,105 55
Tools and implements.....	7,300 15
Gardening materials	1,640 14
Buildings and bridges.....	5,132 02
Fences and fountains.....	1,906 47
Miscellaneous	3,674 23
	\$126,188 56

OFFICE

Petty cash,	
Traveling	\$ 125 50
Stationery and printing	1,927 17
Office supplies	76 00
Salaries	8,838 29
Rents, telephones, etc.....	1,411 55
Legal	5,201 14
Architects and engineers.....	3,761 93
	\$ 21,341 58
Cash on hand December 31st, 1903.....	585,781 63
	\$745,896 90

The law providing a yearly maintenance fund for park purposes went into effect in 1903, and the appropriation made by the Board of Freeholders became available only during the last two months of the year. No distinction has been made in this report between Construction and Maintenance items, but all future reports will show the details of the moneys expended for Construction and Maintenance respectively. The sum included in this report expended from the appropriation for maintenance during the last two months of 1903 is \$12,446.31.

During the year covered by this report Eugene Vanderpool served as Treasurer until July 12th, Howard W. Hayes from July 31st to November 26th and John R. Hardin from December 14th. During the intervals when the Board was without a Treasurer, William A. Brewer, Jr., served as Treasurer *pro tem*.

JOHN R. HARDIN,
Treasurer.

The Auditing Committee report that they have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. They find all items correctly stated.

WILLIAM A. BREWER, JR.,
ROBERT F. BALLANTINE,
Auditing Committee.

Mr. Cyrus Peck, President Board of Park Commissioners, Essex County, N. J.

DEAR SIR:—In accordance with the request received through your secretary, we submit the following report upon the forestry work which has been done, and which is to be continued on the South Mountain Reservation.

There is always danger that the public will misapprehend the purposes in accordance with which trees are cut on public parks and reservations, and it is proper that your Board should have on file a statement from your landscape architects, explaining the purposes intended to be accomplished in the case of the thinning of trees on South Mountain Reservation.

Perhaps it would be well to state in the first place the principal reasons why South Mountain Reservation was taken as a part of the County system of parks.

The principal reason, doubtless, was to secure a large area of natural scenery, having especial advantages as a resort for the public, where a far greater degree of wildness can be permanently preserved than would be either appropriate or possible in the smaller reservations and parks situated in the midst of, or close to densely populated sections of the county. Many people derive a great and special enjoyment from driving or rambling through wild woods, climbing hills and following brooks in shady ravines, and in enjoying the distant prospects

from the hills, and the pastoral views in the retired meadows between the hills: all of which—and much more—is often summed up in the idea of going for a picnic.

Unquestionably the county was very fortunate in having been able to secure such a large tract of land adapted to these purposes at such a comparatively reasonable cost, and having done so, it is proper that every effort should be made to make the most of the opportunities thus afforded, and perfect the woodland scenery and the open pastoral scenery, as well as to make all parts of the reservation conveniently accessible and fit for use by considerable numbers of people.

When one comes to study the woodland scenery critically, one is struck by the fact that, to a marked degree, it is really no longer natural, and that, on the whole, it is decidedly monotonous. Almost without exception, the original woods were cut down many years ago, and generally all parts of the woodland have been cut at intervals ever since. Many fires have raged through the woods, and not a little damage has been done to some parts of it, from the point of view of natural woodland beauty, by pasturing. The predominating effect in the woods is that produced by a rank growth of sprouts from the stumps. Few trees have been allowed to attain notable size, and some of the most beautiful and interesting kinds of trees which originally gave character and variety to the woods have been killed out entirely by fires, and are so rare as to be scarcely noticeable. Those trees which have the necessary qualities for sprouting up again after the wood-

chopper has laid the ground bare, and which can withstand the more moderate forest fires, have taken possession of the ground, almost to the exclusion of other sorts, often more interesting, but which in any case would have lent variety and greater interest to the woodland scenery. The general impression would be that the woods are composed of two or three varieties of oak and the chestnut. The beech, which is one of the most beautiful of forest trees, is comparatively rare, except some scattering groups of comparatively small diameter.

Pines and hemlocks, which do more than any other two kinds of trees to diversify and give a wild and picturesque character to woodlands, have been almost entirely eliminated from the woods, in the first instance by the woodchoppers and subsequently by wood fires. The varied and beautiful undergrowth, which is one of the most charming characteristics of really wild woods, is either sparse or composed of comparatively few kinds of shrubs, with a noticeable absence of ferns and other herbaceous growth characteristic of old natural woods.

As it often has occurred that the woods were cut down at one time over tracts many acres in extent, the sprout growth which followed necessarily has a comparatively uniform height, and has grown up extremely crowded—far more so than would have occurred had there been no interference by man. The chestnut, which is very abundant, has the peculiarity of dropping its branches where they are shaded by the foliage above. The result is, that woods often appear to be composed of bare-trunked trees, with comparatively small tufts of foliage only at

the tops. Had this result been brought about with the definite purpose of securing the greatest possible effect of monotony, it would have been difficult to have been more successful, except, perhaps, by the single additional step of planting the trees in rows, as has been done in many of the commercial forests of Europe. For the purposes of a woodland reservation intended for the enjoyment of the public and not for commercial purposes, this marked appearance of monotony is very greatly to be regretted, and in the management of the woods every effort should be made hereafter to counteract it. It should be noted, further, that although there are a number of kinds of trees, they are apt to be so evenly mixed in the woods that they produce almost as much feeling of monotony as if there had been one or two kinds only.

Another very grievous defect with regard to the enjoyment of the reservation by the public is that, although the reservation includes one of the highest and boldest hills that is to be found within many miles, it is possible to obtain unobstructed views over the surrounding country at only a few points, and even at these points the growth of trees, if not prevented, will in time—often in a very short time—completely block the view. It would manifestly be most unreasonable, having bought a hill for the purpose of commanding views from it, to allow such views as existed to be shut out by the growth of trees, and to fail to open additional views, wherever it would be possible to do so without undue sacrifice of the woodland scenery. Fortunately, there are plenty of places where the slopes are so

steep that the removal of trees from comparatively limited areas will open up views satisfactorily.

Another defect, which is perhaps more obvious to the student of landscape than to the average visitor, which characterizes these woodlands is that owing to the straight lines forming the boundaries of different ownerships, they having in many places either been broken up into rectangular patches, or have straight, stiff margins, noticeably formal, and inconsistent with the highest degree of natural beauty in the local scenery. Where lands have been cleared heretofore for farming purposes, trees and bushes have often been left or have grown up along the fence lines in straight rows, which, for similar reasons are decidedly inappropriate in a large public reservation intended to be devoted to natural scenery.

It follows that there are several good reasons for cutting trees on South Mountain Reservation :

1st. To open up views of the surrounding country from the high places.

2nd. To open up views of the scenery within the reservation itself.

3rd. To break up the straight rows of trees on the old fence lines of the farms and residence grounds formerly existing within the area taken for the reservation.

4th. To diversify the rigid utilitarian outlines of the various patches of woods held by former owners mainly for the purpose of growing fire wood.

5th. To reduce the crowding of one tree upon another, so as to diminish the monotonous and artificial effect produced by the thick sprout growth.

6th. To enable certain kinds of trees which are notable for their beauty, but which would be suppressed by the more rapid growth of the commoner sorts, to develop and attain that full vigor which is required to exhibit their natural growth to advantage.

7th. To save young seedling trees, which alone are capable of attaining to long life and of showing the natural character of the tree, from being crowded out by the more rapid growing sprouts from stumps.

8th. To lessen the monotonous evenness of the mixture of various sorts of trees by cutting some kinds in a given locality, so that the remaining kinds will predominate in that locality, and distinguish it from other adjoining parts of the wood.

9th. In cases where several trees have sprouted from one stump, to remove all but one or two of them, so that those remaining will have more room to develop full, handsome heads, and to lessen the danger that they will be broken down by ice-storms or other storms, because of the one-sidedness of their tops which is inevitable in case several trees are growing from one stump.

10th. To eliminate many of those trees which have been seriously damaged by fire or whose tops have been broken or disfigured, or which have partly decayed trunks, or which are diseased or otherwise ill fitted to become long lived, handsome trees.

11th. To remove, in some cases, certain kinds of trees, which are known to be short lived and yet which have taken possession of the ground to the exclusion of long lived trees.

12th. To remove certain kinds of trees which, although they would do well and be handsome in open ground, have been disfigured, or are certain eventually to be killed by the growth of adjoining trees better adapted to withstand the crowding incident to thick woodlands.

13th. To remove comparatively small and insignificant trees from about particularly large trees which have survived the woodchopping and fires for a century or perhaps more, so that they can be seen and enjoyed by visitors, and so that they may have greater advantages of light and air to continue a healthy and vigorous existence.

14th. To lessen generally the number of trees per acre covering the ground, so that the remaining trees will be enabled to grow faster and develop large and finer boles, and broader, heavier, and more dignified tops. If trees are allowed to remain on considerable areas, crowded together, they not only lose considerable of their characteristic beauty, but are shorter lived and slower growing than if they were thinned out from time to time. It is very obvious that as the amount of rainfall is limited and not over abundant, and as the depth of soil is limited, each tree must necessarily be restricted as to amount of moisture and mineral and other food if it is crowded by other trees.

15th. Where trees are allowed to remain very crowded, they prevent, by the vigor with which they draw the moisture from the soil and by the dense shade which they produce, the growth of most of the beautiful and interesting varieties of woodland shrubs and ferns and herbaceous plants.

For this reason large parts of the woods are comparatively naked below the tops of the trees, so that in walking through them the foreground of the view is more or less bare and uninteresting and colorless, and the monotonous effect of crowded, tall, slim tree trunks is made much more prominent than need be, and the wind, in winter when there is no snow, is enabled to drive the dead leaves from the exposed places owing to the absence of the low, bushy growths which ordinarily hold the carpet of dead leaves in place, or else the undergrowth has come to be composed almost entirely of a few varieties of trees springing up from seed, and which are pretty enough while young, but which gradually, as they have opportunity to grow up in the same crowded and spindling fashion as the older trees, produce a sort of growth which is not beautiful and which hinders people from rambling through the woods.

16th. It is desirable to thin some trees, where the remaining trees are especially adapted to a particular locality. In really natural woods of great extent this selective process results from the better adaptability of certain kinds of trees than other trees to certain places, but where woodchopping and fires have interfered with the ordinary course of nature, this selective process has been done away with, and mainly those trees which are adapted to sprout from the stump and to withstand fires have taken possession of the ground. There are some few spots in South Mountain Reservation where the natural selection of trees is exhibited to some extent. On very dry, rocky summits, the selection of trees is different from that covering most of the hill, and

again in deep, moist, rocky gorges, or in swampy areas where the fires have been less destructive, trees naturally adapted to such situations have survived.

17th. In order to reduce the undesirable effect of monotony, it is proper that the course of nature should be studied and imitated and assisted so that the different varieties of topography will come to be distinguished by different selections of tree growths as well as of undergrowth. If properly prosecuted, this process should result in a few years in a noticeable improvement in the variety of the woods and in the appropriateness of the growths in particular localities to the local conditions.

18th. It is necessary, in order to fit certain areas in the woods for occupation by considerable numbers of people, to cover the surface with grass instead of the more appropriate undergrowth which should occupy the greater part of the woods. Grass cannot be grown without an abundance of light and moisture, and therefore it is necessary to thin out the trees very severely in these localities of limited area, which may, for convenience, be designated, for reference, as "picnic grounds."

19th. So long as fires continue in adjoining private woodlands, it will be necessary to so regulate the woodland growths along or near the boundaries of the reservation as to retard or prevent the spread of fires from the woods outside into the woods inside the reservation. Similar treatment of narrow, irregular strips through the woods of the reservation itself may be necessary in those parts where there are no roads to serve as fire-guards, or to enable the

employees of the Commission to pass rapidly through the woods in the performance of their duties, and particularly in hurrying to woodland fires in the more secluded parts of the reservation.

20th. In anticipation of the eventual grading of wood roads and wider pleasure drives, it is proper to define certain routes suitable in grade and direction, and to accomplish the desired purpose of these roads by cutting the trees to a suitable width along such routes. This will not result in the opening up of noticeable gaps in the woods, as the roads proposed are generally narrow, but will merely indicate that certain trees should be cut down for this particular reason, so that the remaining adjoining trees may have the advantages of light and air, moisture and nourishment which can be saved to them by these slight openings in the woods, in the few cases where it can be surely anticipated that roads of considerable width will eventually be needed. The cutting of trees at present, or before long, is very important, because when such cutting has been made, the remaining trees (especially if pains are taken in thinning for other purposes) to leave those sorts which readily throw out foliage from their lower branches and trunks (when exposed to light and air) to form a fine frontage of foliage along the gap created by such wide roads, and to enable the tops to spread more widely than they otherwise could, so as to overarch the space to be eventually used for such wider drives, and thus restore the effect of continuous woods. The disagreeable and conspicuous gap in the woods to be created by such a cutting, which is inevitable in such cases,

will be observed, if this is made well in advance of the actual construction of the road, by very few people, whereas, if left until the time comes for constructing the road, it would be noticed by a great many. Fortunately, the areas where wide roads are likely to be required are few, and mainly confined to streets which should eventually follow most of the boundaries of the reservation.

21st. Large numbers of comparatively small trees may have to be cut, mainly with the object of securing the substitution of more desirable, bushy undergrowths, or of a particular selection of bushes and small growing trees in places where it is desirable to keep the views perpetually open.

22nd. In some few cases it may be desirable to cut trees, where no other reason exists, for the purpose of securing variety in the distribution of trees on the ground; that is, by thinning in one locality to create a contrast with an adjoining locality where they are to be left to grow permanently much more thickly. In general, however, this purpose will act as a reason for not cutting trees in the particular locality where it is desirable that they should be growing thickly in contrast to adjoining localities where they have been thinned out more or less for other reasons.

There are other reasons for cutting trees which might be mentioned, but perhaps enough has been said to indicate that trees have not been, and ought not hereafter to be cut down without a good reason.

Every manager of a public park or reservation, knowing the strong prejudice which many citizens have against cutting trees, is certain to be far more

conservative, and even timid, in the cutting of trees than he should be if he studies only the arboricultural and aesthetic management of the woodland. There is far greater danger that the woods of South Mountain Reservation will be ruined, or will fail to have the value which they should have for public enjoyment, through neglect to trees which need to be cut from time to time, than from cutting too many. The thinning of trees in woodlands should not proceed too rapidly or too vigorously, even with the best of reasons for doing so, in cases where the remaining trees would be liable to suffer from excessive exposure of the roots to the sun and wind. Often the springing up and growth of coarse, rank weeds will seize upon and absorb the nutriment from the soil more quickly than the trees can. No such excessive thinning of the woods at South Mountain Reservation has occurred, nor is there any apparent likelihood that it will occur.

We have visited the South Mountain Reservation both with and without the superintendent, at sufficiently frequent intervals to be assured that the work was going on substantially in accordance with our instructions.

From such observation as we have been able to make of the manner in which the work has been conducted, we are satisfied that it is managed with unusual business efficiency. A great deal of most valuable improvement of the woodlands has been accomplished at a surprisingly small net cost. Although it might have been possible to have made a preliminary thinning over the whole reservation in one or two winters, and then to have practically

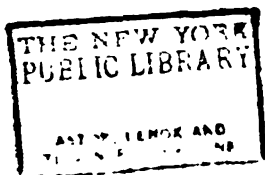
dropped the work for several years, or until a second thinning became desirable, yet we think, on the whole, the better policy has been pursued, from a business point of view, of regulating the performance of the work in such a manner that by the time the whole reservation has been gone over the second thinning may begin.

It has been our intention to submit to your Board a descriptive report upon our design for the improvement of the South Mountain Reservation, and which it is to be hoped will be printed and placed in the hands of all of the responsible employees of your Board, so as to be their guide in all work hereafter undertaken on the Reservation, as well as distributed among such citizens as may care to take an interest in the work going on, or which shall be undertaken upon the Reservation. The completion of this report has been delayed by pressure of other work, but is expected to be completed so that it may be published, if desired, with the next annual report of your Commission.

We take this opportunity of calling your attention to the desirability of securing from the City government of Orange the right to carry the work of forest improvement over the lands owned by that city in connection with their water supply system.

Yours very truly,

OLMSTED BROTHERS.



REPORT
OF THE
***PARK COMMISSION**
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1904-1905

MSP (Es)



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Department of Parks

Ninth and Tenth Annual Reports

OF THE

Board of Commissioners

**Appointed under the Act,
Approved March 5, 1895**

1904-1905

MATTHIAS PLUM

PRINTER

NEWARK, N. J.

ML

Commissioners and Officers

CYRUS PECK, - - -	Term Expires	1906
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR -	" "	1907
FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,	" "	1908
JOHN R. HARDIN, - -	" "	1909
*ROBERT F. BALLANTINE,	" "	1910

PRESIDENT

CYRUS PECK.

VICE-PRESIDENT

FREDERICK M. SHEPARD.

TREASURER

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER

A. M. REYNOLDS, JR.

SUPERINTENDENT

WILLIAM S. MANNING.

*Died December 10, 1905. Franklin Murphy appointed to succeed him.

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23

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ROBERT F. BALLANTINE

PARK COMMISSIONER DEC. 24TH 1901 TO DEC. 10TH 1905

REPORT.

800 BROAD ST., NEWARK, N. J.
January 1st, 1906.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its ninth and tenth annual reports.

Since the publication of the last report there has been another change in the personnel of the Board. Mr. William A. Brewer Jr. who was appointed a Commissioner in 1900 by the late Chief Justice Depue on the resignation of Mr. George W. Bramhall, and reappointed for a full term in 1902 resigned in May 1905, in view of the fact that he was about to start on an extended European trip. Mr. Robert S. Sinclair of South Orange was appointed by Chief Justice Gummere as his successor.

The Board, also is called upon for the third time in less than three years to record the death of one of its members. Mr. Robert F. Ballantine, who was appointed in 1901 to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Franklin Murphy elected Governor of the State, and reappointed in 1905 for a full term of five years, died on December 10th, 1905. Mr. Ballantine was deeply interested in the park undertaking and was the donor of the Robert F. Ballantine Gateway, the handsome entrance to the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park. None appreciated more than his colleagues Mr. Ballantine's sterling worth, and the Commission will greatly feel his loss. The following minute was adopted at a meeting called for that purpose:

"The Essex County Park Commission desires to record its sincere sorrow at the death of Robert F. Ballantine, for four years a member of this Board.

Mr. Ballantine's interest in the development of the park system was very great, even before his appointment as Commissioner, and he gave practical evidence of it by his generous gifts to the undertaking, prominent among them being the Ballantine Gateway, at Branch Brook Park, which will always remain a lasting monument to his public spirit and his munificence.

The Board feels that his loss will be a great one to the County and especially to this Commission. His careful attention to the work of the Board, his conservative judgment, his wide business ability and his wise counsel will be greatly missed; and the affectionate regard in which he was held by each member makes his death a severe personal loss.

"Keenly appreciating these facts it is

"RESOLVED: that the flag on the Administration Building be placed at half mast; that the offices of the Commission be closed on the day of the funeral; that the Administration Building and Ballantine Gateway be draped for an appropriate period and that the Commissioners attend the funeral in a body.

"RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Secretary be directed to send an engrossed copy of this minute to the family, in token of the deep and sincere sympathy of the Commission."

The contract between Messrs. Olmsted Brothers and this Commission expired last June and was not renewed. The work of construction has so far advanced that there is no longer any necessity for a regularly employed landscape architect. Should special cases arise needing their advice special terms will be made with Messrs. Olmsted Brothers.

On the 26th day of April last the Commission received from the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex the sum of \$500,000, the second and final installment of the appropriation of \$1,000,000 which the people

of the County, on November 4th, 1902 voted to expend for further construction. The bonds were sold at a very favorable price, the premium thereon being \$36,375.

The Board has proceeded as rapidly as possible with the various items of improvement outlined in its report for 1901. This statement was made the basis of the request for additional funds, and the Board announced that "Should the appropriation be granted the principal items will be carried out" (Vide 6th Annual Report Page 20). There has been no variation except where altered conditions, beyond the control of the Commission made changes necessary.

The largest single item of expenditure is that for bridges. Three have been completed, two at Branch Brook Park, and one at Park Avenue and one is under construction at Weequahic Reservation. The bridges in Branch Brook Park are at Park Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue. The former cost \$83,687.67 and the latter \$33,201.55. It is now possible to drive under Bloomfield Avenue from the Middle into the Northern Division, thus avoiding a grade crossing of a trolley road, and creating a continuity of park landscape, which makes a most pleasing impression upon the visitor. The contract for the improvement of the approaches to this bridge has also been let and completed at a cost of \$5,621.08. It includes the shaping of the banks adjacent to the structure, the completion of the road under the bridge, the replacing of the road and sidewalks over the bridge and the connection of the ponds in the Northern Division with the lake in the Middle Division by means of a waterway fifteen feet wide so constructed as to resemble a running stream. The area immediately adjoining the bridge has been planted with trees and shrubs. The Park Avenue bridge has also been finished, with the exception of the lamps with which it is planned to surmount the four pilons two at either end. Designs for these have been received

and are now under consideration by the Board. Great care is essential in their selection as they will form a prominent feature in the landscape situated between two open stretches of meadow and lake where they can be seen from almost any point in the Southern and Middle Divisions and at an elevation of thirteen feet above the bridge itself and thirty-nine feet above the level of the park. The clear span of this bridge is one hundred and thirty-two feet. The contract for the improvement of the approaches to this bridge has been let at a cost of \$30,850. This work is much more extensive than that at Bloomfield Avenue. It includes, in the first place, a change in the alignment of Park Avenue, which has been altered so as to pass over the bridge on a curve, doing away with the ugly effect of a straight line of roadway bisecting a park, and giving it more of the character of a Parkway. The grade of the Avenue has been much improved by heavy filling which eliminates the depression or pocket which formerly existed between Lake Street and the canal. The roadway in the Southern Division is to be carried under the bridge connecting in two directions with the drive in the Middle Division. An additional drive will unite Park Avenue near the canal with the roads in the Southern Division. The old roadway is to be filled up to the present improved grade and planted with trees and shrubs, the ground falling in a gentle slope from the new driveway to meet the grades of the Southern Division. The lakes in the middle and Southern Divisions will be joined under this bridge by a waterway fifty-five feet in width. This will double the boating facilities of the park, and add greatly to their attractiveness, making a continuous water surface of about five thousand feet from Orange Street to Bloomfield Avenue.

The third bridge is that carrying Park Avenue over the tracks of the Montclair branch of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. This work was done by the Railroad Company from plans accepted by the City of Newark and the Board of Chosen Freeholders before the Avenue came into the control of the Park Commission. These plans were modified, and made more in conformity with park design at the request of this Board, which was, however, compelled to bear the additional cost thereby occasioned, which to date is \$11,724.95. The modifications in the original plan widened the bridge to seventy feet, placed it in the centre of the avenue instead of at one side, and decreased the grade of the approaches

It was the intention of the Commission from the beginning of its work to connect Branch Brook Park with Sussex Avenue by a driveway which would enable visitors to avoid the trolley and railroad tracks crossing Orange Street at grade. It was decided to construct a subway at this point, carrying the park drive under Orange Street and the Railroad and continuing through the Duryee Street extension to Sussex Avenue. The Board was informed that the Railroad Company did not contemplate depressing at this point to a depth sufficient to interfere with this subway. This improvement was included in the list published in the report for 1901 and above alluded to, and when the endorsement of the people had been obtained at the polls arrangements were made for its execution. The Railroad plans, as finally adopted, however, provided for depression at this point to an extent that would have caused the tracks to cross the subway drive at grade. The Board was, therefore, forced to abandon its original idea and seek for some other solution of the very difficult problem of providing a safe and suitable entrance to the southern end of the park. There were only two schemes by which the trolley

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ROBERT F. BALLANTINE

PARK COMMISSIONER DEC. 24TH 1901 TO DEC. 10TH 1905

REPORT.

800 BROAD ST., NEWARK, N. J.
January 1st, 1906.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its ninth and tenth annual reports.

Since the publication of the last report there has been another change in the personnel of the Board. Mr. William A. Brewer Jr. who was appointed a Commissioner in 1900 by the late Chief Justice Depue on the resignation of Mr. George W. Bramhall, and reappointed for a full term in 1902 resigned in May 1905, in view of the fact that he was about to start on an extended European trip. Mr. Robert S. Sinclair of South Orange was appointed by Chief Justice Gummere as his successor.

The Board, also is called upon for the third time in less than three years to record the death of one of its members. Mr. Robert F. Ballantine, who was appointed in 1901 to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Franklin Murphy elected Governor of the State, and reappointed in 1905 for a full term of five years, died on December 10th, 1905. Mr. Ballantine was deeply interested in the park undertaking and was the donor of the Robert F. Ballantine Gateway, the handsome entrance to the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park. None appreciated more than his colleagues Mr. Ballantine's sterling worth, and the Commission will greatly feel his loss. The following minute was adopted at a meeting called for that purpose:

"The Essex County Park Commission desires to record its sincere sorrow at the death of Robert F. Ballantine, for four years a member of this Board.

Mr. Ballantine's interest in the development of the park system was very great, even before his appointment as Commissioner, and he gave practical evidence of it by his generous gifts to the undertaking, prominent among them being the Ballantine Gateway, at Branch Brook Park, which will always remain a lasting monument to his public spirit and his munificence.

The Board feels that his loss will be a great one to the County and especially to this Commission. His careful attention to the work of the Board, his conservative judgment, his wide business ability and his wise counsel will be greatly missed; and the affectionate regard in which he was held by each member makes his death a severe personal loss.

"Keenly appreciating these facts it is

"RESOLVED: that the flag on the Administration Building be placed at half mast; that the offices of the Commission be closed on the day of the funeral; that the Administration Building and Ballantine Gateway be draped for an appropriate period and that the Commissioners attend the funeral in a body.

"RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Secretary be directed to send an engrossed copy of this minute to the family, in token of the deep and sincere sympathy of the Commission."

The contract between Messrs. Olmsted Brothers and this Commission expired last June and was not renewed. The work of construction has so far advanced that there is no longer any necessity for a regularly employed landscape architect. Should special cases arise needing their advice special terms will be made with Messrs. Olmsted Brothers.

On the 26th day of April last the Commission received from the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex the sum of \$500,000, the second and final installment of the appropriation of \$1,000,000 which the people

of the County, on November 4th, 1902 voted to expend for further construction. The bonds were sold at a very favorable price, the premium thereon being \$36,375.

The Board has proceeded as rapidly as possible with the various items of improvement outlined in its report for 1901. This statement was made the basis of the request for additional funds, and the Board announced that "Should the appropriation be granted the principal items will be carried out" (Vide 6th Annual Report Page 20). There has been no variation except where altered conditions, beyond the control of the Commission made changes necessary.

The largest single item of expenditure is that for bridges. Three have been completed, two at Branch Brook Park, and one at Park Avenue and one is under construction at Weequahic Reservation. The bridges in Branch Brook Park are at Park Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue. The former cost \$83,687.67 and the latter \$33,201.55. It is now possible to drive under Bloomfield Avenue from the Middle into the Northern Division, thus avoiding a grade crossing of a trolley road, and creating a continuity of park landscape, which makes a most pleasing impression upon the visitor. The contract for the improvement of the approaches to this bridge has also been let and completed at a cost of \$5,621.08. It includes the shaping of the banks adjacent to the structure, the completion of the road under the bridge, the replacing of the road and sidewalks over the bridge and the connection of the ponds in the Northern Division with the lake in the Middle Division by means of a waterway fifteen feet wide so constructed as to resemble a running stream. The area immediately adjoining the bridge has been planted with trees and shrubs. The Park Avenue bridge has also been finished, with the exception of the lamps with which it is planned to surmount the four piers two at either end. Designs for these have been received

and are now under consideration by the Board. Great care is essential in their selection as they will form a prominent feature in the landscape situated between two open stretches of meadow and lake where they can be seen from almost any point in the Southern and Middle Divisions and at an elevation of thirteen feet above the bridge itself and thirty-nine feet above the level of the park. The clear span of this bridge is one hundred and thirty-two feet. The contract for the improvement of the approaches to this bridge has been let at a cost of \$30,850. This work is much more extensive than that at Bloomfield Avenue. It includes, in the first place, a change in the alignment of Park Avenue, which has been altered so as to pass over the bridge on a curve, doing away with the ugly effect of a straight line of roadway bisecting a park, and giving it more of the character of a Parkway. The grade of the Avenue has been much improved by heavy filling which eliminates the depression or pocket which formerly existed between Lake Street and the canal. The roadway in the Southern Division is to be carried under the bridge connecting in two directions with the drive in the Middle Division. An additional drive will unite Park Avenue near the canal with the roads in the Southern Division. The old roadway is to be filled up to the present improved grade and planted with trees and shrubs, the ground falling in a gentle slope from the new driveway to meet the grades of the Southern Division. The lakes in the middle and Southern Divisions will be joined under this bridge by a waterway fifty-five feet in width. This will double the boating facilities of the park, and add greatly to their attractiveness, making a continuous water surface of about five thousand feet from Orange Street to Bloomfield Avenue.

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the wading pool was four hundred or thirty thousand for the season, and at the sand court and little folks lawn one thousand and sixty-one, or seventy-five thousand for the season. There are fifty boats on the park lake, which were in almost constant use, and thirty canoes owned by private individuals and cared for by the lessee of the boating privilege.

The method of regulating the use of the gamefields is as follows: Each day is divided into periods varying in length according to the games played, three during the base-ball and six during the foot-ball season. Beginning on Monday permits are given out from the Secretary's office for the current week, and the first to apply is first accomodated. Requests by mail accompanied by return postage are attended to in order of their receipt. The permits for tennis are governed in the same way save that the permit entitles the holder to the use of a court for one week. The young people generally form tennis clubs and the permit held by one of their officers entitles all the club to the use of the court during the life of the permit.

The band stands erected at Branch Brook Park, Eastside Park, Westside Park and Orange Park last year, but not completed until fall were first used during the past season. They have all been lighted by electricity. The wiring was done at the expense of this Board, but the Public Service Corporation furnished the light free of charge on concert nights. The cost of the concerts in Newark is defrayed by an appropriation made by the Common Council: in Orange the money is raised by private subscription. The Commission is informed by those in charge, that the stands are entirely satisfactory, and a decided factor in the success of the concerts. The largest attendance at a Newark concert is estimated to have been thirty-five thousand.

The Newark Board of Education has conducted its summer school athletic department, in Branch Brook, Eastside and Westside Parks with the consent and cooperation of this Commission; and thousands of children have received lasting benefit from the healthful exercise taken in the open air, amid delightful scenic surroundings, and under the guidance of trained instructors. On August 12th, 1905, the season closed with a field day at Branch Brook Park at which two thousand children took part in athletic exhibitions, and the attendance was estimated at eight thousand.

The annual Fourth of July celebration of the City of Newark was held as usual in this park, at the Sussex Avenue end.

The border mound at the stable in the Northern Division has been constructed, and planted with trees and shrubs. The object of this border mound is to screen the utilitarian buildings which must of necessity exist in the parks, and make them as inconspicuous as possible. Successful examples of this planting out process as it is called are the stable at Orange Park and the greenhouses at Branch Brook Park, which are practically hidden by foliage.

Another improvement which has been begun at Branch Brook Park but is as yet unfinished is that of replacing the wooden steps, erected for temporary use only, with those of more permanent character. The contract which has been let for the sum of \$6,090.89 provides for the removal of wooden steps from all the parks. Those of concrete construction will be substituted. This material has been found to have for this purpose a durability practically as great as that of stone, and the saving in cost is very large, the cost of concrete being only about one fifth as much as that of stone. The cost for maintenance is the same, as the edges of

stone steps are as likely to chip off as those of well built concrete.

The Commission, during the past year, has made an earnest effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the territory under its control. Early in the spring a conference was held with the members of the Board of Health at which Professor John B. Smith, State Entomologist was also present. This Commission received many valuable suggestions as to the proper method of preventing the breeding of mosquitoes, and these were carefully followed. All the low swampy places, which existed chiefly in the reservations were filled, and the catch basins in the parks and the East Orange Parkway were regularly treated with kerosene oil. Professor Smith courteously placed at the service of the Board one of his assistants who made regular inspections of all suspected breeding places, and Professor Smith himself made several trips. The decrease in the number of mosquitoes has been gratifyingly noticeable, and the Board is now assured that there are no breeding places in any of the parks it controls. In response to a request from the Park Commission Professor Smith made a written report on this subject, which is as follows:

May 16th, 1905.

DEAR SIR:—Referring to the mosquito condition in Branch Brook Park Newark, the Commission appears to have done all that lies within its power at the present time. In pursuance of my promise to the Commission, Mr. Brehme has been in the park at short intervals, and on Friday of last week, made a very thorough investigation. He followed the brook from one end to the other, and found no breeding in any place. All the catch basins were examined, and all in which there was any water whatever, had a coating of oil, and were safe. At that

time, there was not a specimen breeding in the park.

In the brief survey made yesterday, I came to the conclusion that except in the catch basins, there is no chance for mosquito breeding; the brook, if it is kept in its present condition, is absolutely safe. Fish, and other natural enemies that occur in it, are sufficient to keep down the development of larvæ. There is absolutely nothing more that can be done by the Commission at the present time. That there are some mosquitoes in the park is unfortunately true. Such of them as were seen and captured all proved to be *Culex cantator*. This is one of the salt marsh specimens; and there is no doubt but that a small migration from the Kearny marshes has reached the park. These will remain for a considerable time, and some may be in evidence all during the summer. The difficulty is that the very feature that makes the park so beautiful, the masses of shrubbery, affords hiding places for these creatures, to which they resort during the day, and from which they come at night, or even when disturbed attack passers by in day light.

This is something that is entirely out of the power of your Commission to prevent. It means that the work on the salt marshes must be extended to include other municipalities than the City of Newark.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN B. SMITH.

Professor Smith, also in a report to the Committee on Mosquito Extermination held recently said "The Park Commissioners have absolutely prevented the development of mosquitoes in the parks, and there has been less breeding of fresh water mosquitoes than ever before in the history of Newark." It is gratifying to be able to cooperate in the crusade for the destruction of these

pests for their elimination would be a great boon to the entire community. This Board will continue to take whatever preventive measures are deemed effective by those who have given the subject special study.

The question of a proper water supply for Branch Brook Park is still being discussed by the Board. The driven well which was sunk last year yields about two hundred thousand gallons per day, but this is hardly sufficient to keep the brook in the Northern Division in proper condition by creating a sufficiently rapid flow of water. The surface of the stream is covered, in places, with a green scum or algæ, which a current would soon remove. The so-called Bordeaux Mixture has been tried in an effort to destroy it, but in spite of the success claimed for it in other localities it has been a failure. The item of water for the drinking fountains and for watering the plantations and drives is a heavy one, as the Commission is now required to pay for it at meter rates. Several efforts have been made, but without success, to persuade the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark to permit the Commission to use the water without charge, at least so long as the supply is more than sufficient for the wants of the City. It was suggested that Newark pays three-quarters of the maintenance of the parks, and a charge made by the City would be almost entirely paid by a tax levied on the City. Some years ago the Board placed what are known as bubbling cups on all its drinking fountains. This is a device by which the water is thrown out of the pipe with force enough to permit a person to drink without the use of a metal cup. It is the best method known from a sanitary standpoint as it prevents entirely the spread of contagious diseases by contact with a vessel which has received germs from contaminated lips. These bubbling cups flow continuously, however, and it was found that the maintenance

appropriation was insufficient to permit of paying for water at city rates. The old fashioned metal cups had to be again put into use. The Bacteriologist of the Newark Board of Health has been requested to make a careful examination with a view to ascertaining whether these are contaminated. If they are discovered so to be the drinking fountains in the parks will have to be done away with unless a cheaper method of securing water can be found. The Engineer of this Board has practically completed a device which he thinks will permit the bubbling cups to be used and their flow so regulated that the water will not be wasted.

The largest undertaking of the park system, outside of Branch Brook Park, is the improvement of the lake at Weequahic Reservation. When this land was acquired it contained a large swamp about eighty acres in extent, which was in most places sluggish and shallow, and about half of which was covered with cat tails, bogs and other water weeds. It was the breeding place of millions of mosquitoes, and was a decided menace to the health of the surrounding population. The Board realized that it is one of the cardinal principles of a proper park plan to take land undesirable in character, and difficult of improvement by private enterprise, and develop it into an attractive pleasure ground, to make glad the waste places. In consonance with this idea the character of the marsh was studied. It was found that there was an abundance of water of most excellent quality from springs to create a lake deep enough to prevent the recurrence of bog growths. A dam was accordingly built at the northern end of the lake and the water raised five feet. The bogs rose to the higher surface detaching themselves entirely from the bottom. A contract was then awarded for ridding the lake of these floating growths at a cost of \$32,000. This work has just been completed. The total cost of improving the

lake including the work not covered by this contract is \$48,741.87. The method employed was the use of a dredging machine on a scow having an orange peel bucket, so called, of one cubic yard capacity. This bucket is divided into four sections which opens as it descends to the surface, and closes over the material to be removed; when it is again lifted, moved to the point of deposit and emptied. The scow was floated about the lake and the bogs poled and dragged near enough to it to be raised by the dredge. When taken from the water they were placed at points where filling is desired or in piles where they can be burned. The task was a great one as the bogs ranged from four to eight feet in depth and contained in some instances three hundred cubic yards. It was considered remarkable that bogs of this depth and size would float at all, and the successful accomplishment of the undertaking is a matter of great satisfaction to the Board. \$1,000 more was spent in deepening the southern end of the lake. The level was then temporarily lowered to permit of the removal of all stumps, sunken bogs and other obstructions to boating and to properly clean the shores. This work was done by laborers employed by the Commission, and cost \$1,901.81. The high water level was restored and Essex County now has as fine a lake as can be found in this vicinity. It is four thousand, four hundred feet long, and its width varies from four hundred feet at the northwest, to one thousand, three hundred feet at the widest, portion. The lake is fed entirely by springs so that the water is beautifully clear and its surface will afford an ideal place for boating and skating. The rise in the level has increased the lake's area by about five acres. The elimination of this swamp had a marked effect upon the mosquitoes, and their decrease in this locality has been so decided as to cause much comment. The Board intends to erect, on

the shore of this lake a building for the use of those who wish to take advantage of the boating and skating facilities, and it is expected that when the lake is opened for aquatic sports it will be the most popular sheet of water in the county. Not only does its size and the clearness of the water render it attractive, but it lies in a picturesque hollow surrounded by rolling hills, heavily timbered with magnificent specimens of oak, beach, tulip and chestnut, which make the landscape exceedingly beautiful. Owing to its great area there will be no attempt made to clean its entire surface of snow in the skating season, but it will be properly lighted with electric lights, placed along its shores.

The Board has filled in the swampy mosquito-breeding spots in this Reservation with dirt removed in the work of widening the roads. A contract was let last spring at a cost of \$13,287.80, about \$1,500 less than the estimate published in the last report for the construction of a bridge over the tracks of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company. This is the fourth in the series of park bridges erected with the proceeds of the last appropriation. Its purpose is to connect the park drive, which enters the reservation from Meeker Avenue and skirts the easterly and southerly sides of the lake, with Elizabeth Avenue. It will be a steel girder structure of three spans, the centre one of sixty two feet, and the others forty nine feet each. The total length of the bridge from end to end will be one hundred and sixty five feet. The crown of the roadway is twenty eight feet two inches above the railroad rails, giving a clearance on the underside of twenty two feet six inches above the track. The bridge is of a total width of thirty feet, allowing for a twenty foot drive and an eight foot side walk on the northerly side. A pipe railing will be on both sides of the bridge and will extend beyond the wing walls. The bridge will probably be lighted with

naptha lamps such as are now used in the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park, although electricity may be decided upon. The concrete abutments have been finished, and the steel portion practically completed, though some work still remains to be done. The approaches to the bridge have been begun and will be finished before Spring, it is expected. There is an athletic field in this reservation, and it has been in constant use for tennis, base ball and foot ball. The Commission has, moreover, requested an expert in such matters to advise it as to the feasibility of laying out a golf links, and to indicate what, in his judgment, will be a proper course. If this is done there will hardly be an outdoor game which does not have its place in one of the parks. Grounds are now provided at Branch Brook Park for cricket, base ball and foot ball; at Eastside Park for tennis and croquet; at Westside Park for tennis and running; at Orange Park for tennis and at Wat-tessing Park for running and cycling. There is also an open air gymnasium in the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park.

The Road Horse Association of New Jersey has as usual held its weekly matinees at the track at Weequahic Reservation. The track has been used, too, for bicycle races and for automobile meets.

At Westside Park a contract has been let and completed at a cost of \$1,360 for the coping of the retaining walls with concrete. The interior walls are likewise being coped with the same material. As in the other parks the existing temporary wooden steps are being replaced with those of concrete construction. The plantations here have been remarkably successful, especially a fine avenue of linden trees on the esplanade along Seventeenth Street. This land, with the exception of the corner of Fifteenth Avenue and Fifteenth Street and

a point in Vailsburgh is the highest in Newark, and from it can be had a fine view of the Orange Mountains. There has been some difficulty in maintaining the level of Westside Lake, and after considerable investigation the Engineer has concluded that this is due to seepage through the banks caused by the settling of the northerly portion of the park. A small area of ground here was part of what is known as Old Magnolia Swamp, which is apparently an almost bottomless bog. The level of the lake will be lowered and proper repairs made.

Montclair Park has been completed. This is the latest addition to the system. It was presented to the Town of Montclair by C. W. Anderson Esq., and the care custody and control thereof vested in the Park Commission by ordinance. The land, like so much of that hitherto improved by this Board was low and marshy in character and considerable outlay was necessary for underdrainage, which makes no showing in the finished park. It is a very important factor, however, transforming an unsanitary swamp into a healthful pleasure ground. The contract for the improvement of this park amounted to \$15,622.23. The work consisted of grading, storm water and underdrainage, the laying out of gravel walks and the construction of a water system. Besides this the park has been planted at a cost of \$3,800. Seventeen thousand five hundred trees and shrubs have been set out. They are divided as follows: two hundred evergreen trees, six hundred deciduous trees, twenty-two hundred evergreen shrubs and fourteen thousand five hundred deciduous shrubs. Fourteen thousand of these trees and shrubs were grown in the Commission's own nursery at Weequahic Reservation. The park has also been seeded and the lawns are in fine condition. The cost was \$4,675.

At South Mountain Reservation the land ac-

quirement has been practically completed, making the total acquirement cost of this reservation \$285,422.47. This figure may be increased, however, by jury awards in some of the condemnation cases. There are still several pieces of land of inconsiderable area whose owners cannot be found. It is expected that these can be secured during the coming year and that their cost will not exceed \$5,000.

Last winter the City of Orange sought the consent of the Park Commission to the building of a new distributing reservoir in this reservation in connection with the City water supply system. There are now two reservoirs within the boundaries of this park which were established many years before the reservation lands were acquired by this Commission. An enabling act was passed by the last session of the Legislature at the request of the City authorities. The Commission was favorably disposed toward the proposition from the start. It was influenced in arriving at this conclusion, not only by a desire to cooperate, whenever possible, with other municipal bodies, in carrying out public improvements but also by the special circumstances of this case. Orange had located its water supply system in the South Mountain Valley long before the Commission acquired the surrounding land. Expansion was absolutely essential, yet without the cooperation of this Board was impossible. The Park Commission, therefore, did not feel like standing in the way of needed enlargement. Moreover a reservoir when properly treated is an attraction, rather than a detriment to a park landscape.

An agreement was accordingly entered into between the City of Orange and the Commission, the main features of which are as follows: The Commission agreed to acquire and has acquired, title to two small pieces of land within its boundaries, but at that time not secured.

The use of this land and some adjoining it amounting in all to three and one half acres was granted to the City of Orange as long as it maintains thereon a distributing reservoir, the fee, however remaining in the Commission. The cost of acquisition is to be paid by the City of Orange and amounts to about \$1,000, subject to increase by appeals in condemnation. The City also agrees to construct and maintain the reservoir as much in conformity with park design as is consistent with its use. Finally it agrees to discharge into the brook which flows over Hemlock Falls, as long as the reservoir is maintained, water at the rate of seven hundred and fifty thousand gallons per day from May 1st to November 1st of each year. This, from a park standpoint, is of great importance, and will be a splendid improvement to the reservation. Hemlock Falls is one of the beauty spots of this park, and is widely known throughout the County. A small stream flows down the west side of the first mountain through a wild and rocky gorge, finally falling over a precipitous cliff thirty-one feet in height into the valley below. The flat land at the foot of the fall is wooded with some fine specimens of hemlock, and has always been a favorite resort for nature lovers. Unfortunately with a perversity common to many mountain torrents it is practically dry in summer. This agreement insures a handsome fall at all seasons, which will greatly enhance the beauty of the gorge, and add to its landscape value. Hereafter Hemlock Falls will be a fact as well as a name. This water is not wasted, as it returns to the reservoir after going over the falls.

It may be said in this connection that South Mountain Reservation has been of inestimable benefit to the water supply system of Orange. By completely surrounding it with a park all sources of pollution have been removed. The upbuilding of the neighborhood

made this an increasing danger and threatened the purity of the supply. As the reservation includes the slopes of both mountains as well as the valley between there can be no recurrence of these polluting agencies. By insuring the preservation of the surrounding forests, also, the water shed has been permanently protected, and any considerable diminution of the supply prevented. Here again is an instance of the practical utilitarian value of park undertakings, a proof of their use quite apart from æsthetic or landscape considerations.

The completion of the East Orange Parkway is still waiting action by the authorities of the City of East Orange in the matter of the storm water drainage of that portion lying between Main Street and Central Avenue. The Board cannot proceed with this improvement until an outlet is provided for the drainage of the parkway; and this lack of a suitable outlet prevents the construction of an independent system for the parkway alone. A commission has been appointed under a recent act of the Legislature to consider the subject and to proceed in such manner as shall appear to be for the benefit of all the property in the neighborhood. Several conferences have been held between this Drainage Commission, the Park Commission and the authorities of East Orange, and a drainage plan has been practicably agreed upon.

This Board has appropriated \$4,500 for the further improvement of Park Avenue and \$1,500 for the resurfacing of Prospect Avenue, both of which are controlled by the Park Commission and the work will be finished during the coming season.

Before leaving the subject of park construction it seems appropriate to say a few words as to new park enterprises. Several requests have been made to the Commission during the past year for the location of new

parks of small area in thickly settled portions of the county. This Board has always been in favor of neighborhood parks, and realizes that as the population of a community grows, their number should increase also. In the first annual report, page 8 the following statement is made. "Another important feature in the county scheme is the location of neighborhood parks in the more crowded settlements where they can be enjoyed without the expense of transportation."

In the second report, that for 1897, the lands acquired were classified under four general heads, page 1. The first class is neighborhood parks, the report continues "Neighborhood parks, located near the centres of dense population, and intended for those who desire, at no great distance, a glimpse of more natural and agreeable surroundings. They have been very happily called the lungs of a great city, and are now everywhere recognized as the most important part of an extended park plan. New York City is paying the penalty of neglectful delay in not sooner providing such parks, and during the past year has appropriated \$3,000,000 for this acquirement, realizing how essential they are in every municipality."

In its report for 1901, the Sixth, the Commission said, page 11, "The policy of the Board has always been to establish, where practicable, neighborhood parks near thickly settled districts."

It should be frankly stated, however, that the Commission has no funds with which to carry out any such undertakings. In the report issued just before the last appropriation was voted by the people, a statement was made showing clearly what the money would be used for if received. This schedule included the establishment of no new parks. The Board also said, report for 1901, page 18 "The Commission would be unwilling to take the initiative in asking for any further appropriations."

With this report before them the people approved the contemplated expenditure. The Park Commission, therefore, feels that it must vary this program as little as possible, and after carrying out its essential features the construction account will be practically exhausted. The Board itself, at this time, can ask for no more money for construction. Some of the new projects presented have merit, however, and would if carried out, be beneficial to the community, and improve the general park system. But the initiative in securing additional funds must come from the people themselves. If they desire more neighborhood parks and can put this Board in possession of sufficient money to secure them, the Commission will gladly undertake to incorporate them into the County System. The Commissioners believe that the time will come when the necessity of such additions will be so clearly manifest that they will be secured.

As the parks develop and their use by the public increases, the problems of maintenance gradually take the place of those of construction. The Board has considered several of these questions during the past year. Among them is that of the park police. It is necessary to have a force of men especially trained to protect the enormously valuable property which the County has acquired in the establishment of the parks. But the duty of a park guard differs materially from that of a member of the municipal force. Crimes in parks are rare. The environment of beautiful landscape, pure air and bright sunshine is not conducive to the development of man's evil instincts. The park visitor needs to be warned rather than arrested, to be taught instead of fined. As a large per cent. of those using parks are children and young men and women the officer must have sufficient tact and discretion to guide and control them in such a manner that the rules will be properly observed without lessening the enjoyment of the visitors.

It may be said that there is practically no criminal side to park police duty. Almost all infractions of the regulations arise from thoughtlessness or the inexperience of youth. The rules governing the use of the parks are made with a view solely to their better enjoyment by all the people and the Board has endeavored to secure officers who will courteously explain them, yet firmly insist that they be observed. There are now twenty officers employed in the nine parks and reservations under the direction of a Chief. During the past summer the park police force was assisted in handling the crowds at the band concerts by details from the regular force of the Cities of Newark and Orange. These officers were of great assistance, and this Board gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of the Police Commissioners of Newark and Orange in thus cooperating with it. The chief difficulty of the park policemen is to properly impress upon the people that the flowers and shrubs must not be touched. This is particularly so in the reservations, and citizens have even written the Board demanding that they be allowed to gather flowers or plants. Few realize that there is not enough in all the parks for all the people, and that a beautiful landscape cannot be developed, if its constituent parts are continually carried away. This Board has striven to impress this fact upon all visitors, and appeals, as it has in former reports for assistance in creating a public sentiment against this vandalism: The Commissioners believe it arises more from thoughtlessness than from evil motives. The following circular reproduced from the report for 1903, page 20, was read in every public school in the county, and is handed to everyone who visits the reservations.

"The Essex County Park Commission has been greatly hindered in its efforts to make attractive the parks and reservations under its control, by the constant picking of flowers and shrubs. This is particularly the case in

the Mountain Reservations, Eagle Rock and South Mountain. The Commission desires to keep these large stretches of mountain landscape as nearly as possible in their original state that the public may thoroughly enjoy their beautiful natural scenery. Thousands of dollars of public money have been spent with this end in view. This object cannot be achieved unless the shrubs and flowers are permitted to grow undisturbed.

During the present year the reservations have been so stripped of flowers and flowering plants that they are rapidly being denuded. The rule of the Commission in this regard is as follows:

No person shall cut, break, deface, defile, or ill-use any building, fence, tree, bush, plant, or other thing belonging to the Essex County Parks, or have possession of any part thereof.

There is a penalty for the violation of this rule. The Essex County Park Commission, therefore, earnestly urges that all visitors to the parks and reservations abstain entirely from picking or having in their possession, any flower, branch or shrub therein: and moreover that they do what they can to persuade others to live up to this rule."

So important does the Board conceive this subject to be that it intends to apply to the next Legislature for an enlargement of its police powers in order that fines may be imposed for neglect to comply with these rules.

The report of the Treasurer follows.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS PECK,
FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submits herewith a tabulated statement of the receipts and expenditures for the years ending December 31st, 1904 and December 31st, 1905.

Cash on hand December 31st, 1903.....		\$585,781.62
Construction fund,.....	\$483,129.30	
Maintenance fund,.....	102,652.32	
	\$585,781.62	

**CONSTRUCTION,
1904.
RECEIPTS.**

Cash on hand December 31st, 1903,.....		\$483,129.30
Received from Essex County,.....	\$14,163.00	
Interest,.....	8,364.47	
Sales, wood, old material, etc.....	8,817.55	
		31,345.02
		\$514,474.32

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Branch Brook Park,		
Eastside Park,		
Westside Park,		
Orange Park,		
Watsessing Park,		
Montclair Park,		
Weequahic Reservation,		
Eagle Rock Reservation,		
South Mountain Reservation, ..	\$23,369.48	
Parkways,.....	4,239.49	
		\$27,608.97

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS,

Branch Brook Park,.....	\$162,193.70	
Eastside Park,.....	1,623.74	
Westside Park,.....	3,177.80	
Orange Park,.....	2,336.19	
Watsessing Park,.....	821.54	
Montclair Park,.....	16,504.84	
Weequahic Reservation,.....	25,390.39	
Eagle Rock Reservation,.....	1,168.68	
South Mountain Reservation, ..	7,025.17	
East Orange Parkway, ...	15,618.98	
Park Avenue,.....	760.70	
Prospect Avenue,.....	513.58	
		\$237,135.31

ITEMS.

Paving and Sewerage, ..	\$ 6,644.43
Trees and Plants,.....	12,563.62
Labor,.....	86,015.61
Tools and Implements.	8,711.12
Gardening,.....	5,950.98
Buildings and Bridges,	109,841.00
Fences and Fountains,	6,887.69
Miscellaneous,.....	520.86

\$237,135.31

OFFICE.

Legal,.....	\$ 2,026.48	
Architects and Engineers,.....	12,260.45	
		\$ 14,286.93

		\$279,031.21
Cash on hand December 31st, 1904,.....		\$235,443.11
		\$514,474.32

**MAINTENANCE,
1904.
RECEIPTS.**

Cash on hand December 31st, 1903,.....		\$102,652.32
Received from Interest,.....	\$1,026.52	
Rents,.....	\$2,591.75	3,618.27
		\$106,270.59

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS,

Branch Brook Park,.....	\$55,564.07	
Eastside Park,.....	2,960.56	
Westside Park,.....	5,977.57	
Orange Park,.....	6,941.75	
Watsessing Park,.....	1,118.28	
Weequahic Reservation,.....	6,906.92	
Eagle Rock Reservation,.....	3,300.37	
South Mountain Reservation,.	8,795.87	
East Orange Parkway,.....	2,023.69	
Park Avenue,.....	5,715.00	
Prospect Avenue,.....	3,469.04	\$102,863.12

ITEMS.

Police,.....	\$ 11,844.50	
Wages,.....	60,801.20	
Tools and Supplies,...	30,217.42	
		\$102,863.12

OFFICE.

Petty cash,		
Traveling,.....	\$ 314.35	
Stationery and printing,.....	1,367.02	
Office supplies,.....	61.49	
Salaries,.....	9,252.35	
Rents, telephones etc.....	1,733.96	\$ 12,729.17
		115,592.29

Excess of expenditures over receipts,.....

\$ 9,321.70

\$106,270.59

CONSTRUCTION,

1905.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand December 31st, 1904,.....		\$235,443.11
Received from Essex County,.....	\$535,702.60	
Interest,.....	9,844.30	
Sales, wood old material, etc.....	10,905.45	
		<u>556,452.35</u>
		\$791,895.46

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Branch Brook Park,.....	\$ 222.63	
Eastside Park,		
Westside Park,		
Orange Park,		
Watsessing Park,		
Montclair Park,		
Weequahic Reservation,		
Eagle Rock Reservation,		
South Mountain Reservation,.	38,445.98	
Parkways,.....	5,000.00	
		<u>\$43,668.61</u>

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park,.....	\$74,464.65	
Eastside Park,.....	157.41	
Westside Park,.....	2,895.69	
Orange Park,.....	494.49	
Watsessing Park,.....	18.98	
Montclair Park,.....	7,989.63	
Weequahic Reservation,.....	35,901.08	
Eagle Rock Reservation,.....	338.28	
South Mountain Reservation,.	6 251.63	
East Orange Parkway,.....	3,973.39	
Park Avenue,.....	7,044.29	
Prospect Avenue,.....	993.61	
		<u>\$140,523.13</u>

ITEMS.

Paving and sewerage,.	\$ 6,219.19
Trees and plants,.....	10,438.09
Labor,.....	68,559.62
Tools and Imple-	
ments,.....	1,265.17
Gardening materials,.	3,960.21
Buildings and bridges.	49,355.09
Fences and fountains,.	46.00
Miscellaneous,.....	679.76

\$140,523.13

OFFICE.

Legal,.....	\$ 1,418.72	
Architects and engineers,.....	10,364.58	
		<u>\$ 11,783.30</u>

		<u>\$195,975.04</u>
Cash on hand December 31st, 1905,.....		<u>\$595,920.42</u>

\$791,895.46

**MAINTENANCE,
1905.
RECEIPTS.**

Received from Essex County.....	\$118,586.25	
Interest.....	1,185.86	
Rents.....	2,858.50	\$122,630.61

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$45,898.14	
Eastside Park.....	3,430.70	
Westside Park.....	5,385.16	
Orange Park.....	7,488.46	
Watsessing Park.....	1,298.94	
Montclair Park.....	768.89	
Weequahic Reservation.....	5,606.02	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	2,857.91	
South Mountain Reservation..	5,957.15	
East Orange Parkway.....	2,718.49	
Park Avenue.....	1,976.10	
Prospect Avenue.....	79.90	\$83,465.86

Excess of expenditures over receipts in 1904,
made good from this year's maintenance fund., \$ 9,321.70

ITEMS.

Police.....	\$12,019.36
Wages.....	49,347.21
Tools and supplies....	22,099.29
	\$83,465.86

OFFICE.

Petty cash.....	\$ 50.00	
Traveling.....	216.00	
Stationery and printing.....	1,022.58	
Office supplies.....	50.57	
Salaries.....	10,168.01	
Rents, telephones, etc.....	1,475.01	\$12,982.17

		\$105,769.73
Cash on hand December 31st, 1905.....		16,860.88
		\$122,630.61

The deficiency December 31st, 1904 is due to the fact that the maintenance appropriation first became available to the Board November 1st 1903. This appropriation had to carry the Board to December 31st, 1904, a period of fourteen months, as the maintenance appropriation for the year 1905 was not received until January 1905. Hereafter the maintenance monies received from the County will be applicable to the fiscal year of the Board in which they are received, that is from January 1st to December 31st. The deficiency above shown the Board has overcome by economies in maintenance during the year 1905 and the Board in 1905, from the appropriation for maintenance for that year, notwithstanding the deficit with which the fiscal year opened, closed the year 1905 with a balance of \$8,000. The actual balance shown of \$16,860.88 is subject to outstanding bills of about \$9,000.

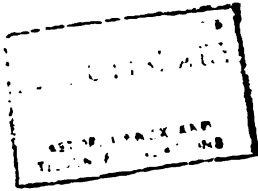
JOHN R. HARDIN,

Treasurer.

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,

Certified Public Accountant.



REPORT

OF THE

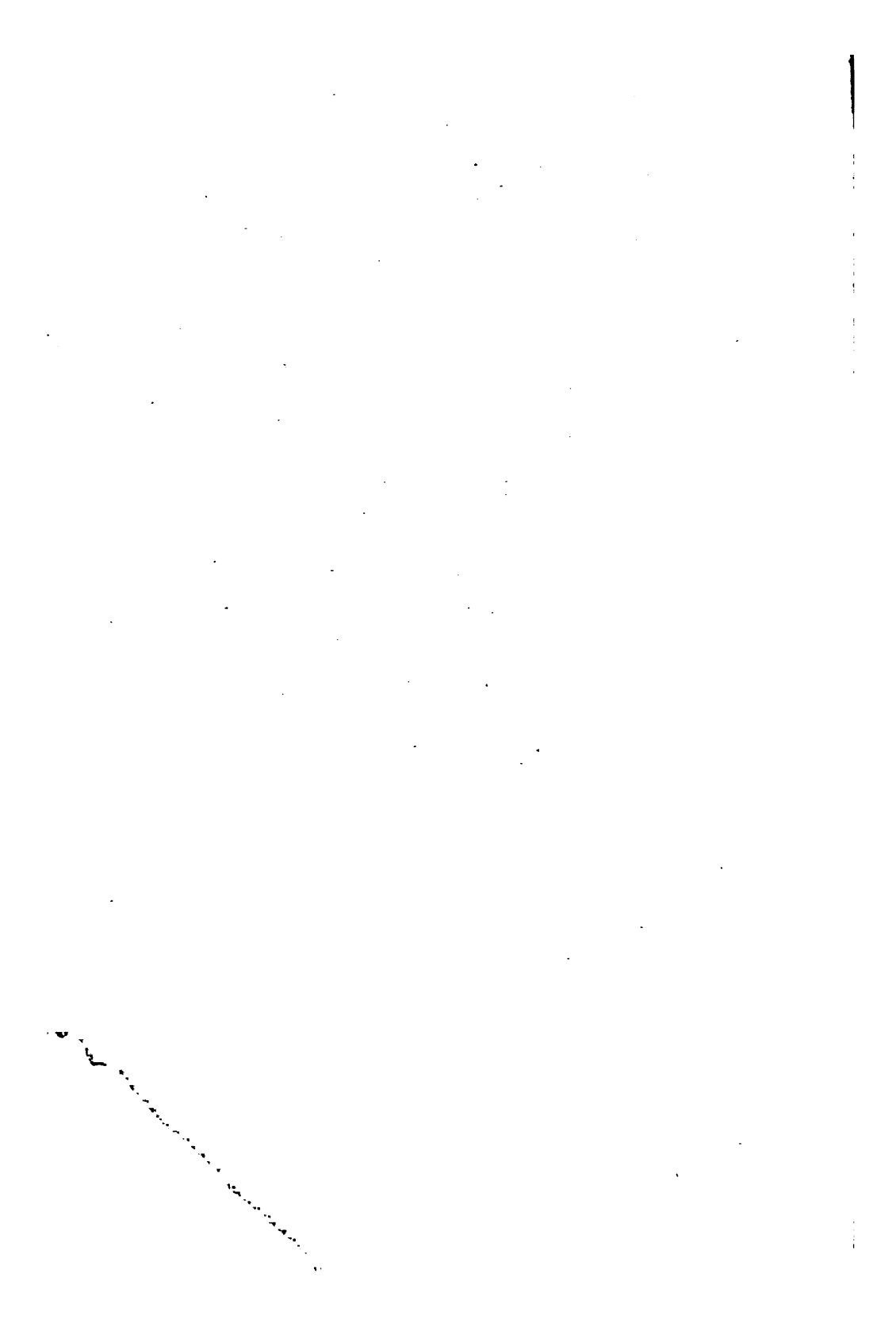
PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1906

MSP(E)



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Department of Parks

Eleventh Annual Report

OF THE

Board of Commissioners

Appointed under the Act,

Approved March 5, 1895

1906

MATTHIAS PLUM

PRINTER

NEWARK, N. J.

M.C.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,	-	Term Expires	1907
FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,		"	1908
JOHN R. HARDIN,	- -	"	1909
FRANKLIN MURPHY,	-	"	1910
P. SANFORD ROSS,	- -	"	1911

PRESIDENT

FREDERICK M. SHEPARD.

VICE-PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

TREASURER

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT

A. M. REYNOLDS, JR.

1



THOMAS W. CROOKS

PARK COMMISSIONER MAY 5TH 1906 TO SEPT. 30TH 1906

REPORT

800 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

January 1st, 1907.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its Eleventh Annual Report.

The year just passed was marked by the retirement from the Board of Mr. Cyrus Peck, who on the expiration of his third term in April last declined a reappointment. Mr. Peck had served the county continuously, both on the preliminary and on the permanent Commission since 1894, and during this entire period of nearly twelve years had been its President. The feeling of his colleagues on his withdrawal can be best expressed in the words of the resolutions passed on that occasion, which were as follows:

"This Commission has learned with regret that Mr. Cyrus Peck, for twelve years a Park Commissioner and President of this Board has declined a reappointment.

He was one of the active members of the Citizens' Committee which, in 1895 secured the passage of the legislation resulting in the establishment of the park system.

In 1897 he joined with other heirs of Aaron Peck in presenting to Essex County a valuable tract of land, now part of the middle division of Branch Brook Park, and during all his long term of service he has discharged his duties as Commissioner and as presiding officer of the Board with unusual fidelity and zeal, seldom being absent from the meetings of the commission and cheerfully sacrificing his personal convenience to give the best of his time and thought to the Board's deliberations. This Commission is unanimously of the opinion that such interest and

such faithful service entitle Mr. Peck to the appreciative gratitude of the citizens of Essex County, and desires to record its hearty thanks for all that he has done for Essex County in the initiative acquirement and development of the park system. As a testimonial of which and as a proof of the high personal esteem in which he has always been held by his colleagues, it is,

RESOLVED: That the Secretary be directed to transmit an engrossed copy of this minute to Mr. Peck; to express to him the regret felt by his fellow Commissioners at the severing of the official ties of the past twelve years and to assure him that their personal regard will follow him into his retirement and remain with him there unchanged."

Mr. Frederick M. Shepard, for eleven years Vice-President was chosen as Mr. Peck's successor in the Presidency, and Mr. Franklin Murphy became Vice-President.

Chief Justice Gummere appointed Mr. Thomas W. Crooks to succeed Mr. Peck as a Commissioner, but Mr. Crooks served for only four months of his five year term, dying on September 30th, 1906. The following resolutions were passed by this commission at a special meeting called for that purpose, which is the fourth time within less than three and one-half years, that this Board has been called upon to record the death of one of its members.

"The Essex County Park Commission has learned with great regret of the death on September 30th last of Thomas W. Crooks, one of the members of this Board:

His successful career throughout a long and unusually active business life had clearly demonstrated his ability in the handling of large undertakings and his capacity for close application to the work before him.

His appointment on May 5th, 1906, therefore, was most gratifying to the members of this Board, who felt that the people of the County were fortunate to secure the services of such a man.

During his short connection with the work he evinced the liveliest interest in the problems presented for consideration, and was of much assistance in their solution. Had he lived, his services would have been of great value in assisting his fellow Commissioners in their labors, and in his death the County and the Commission have sustained a serious loss.

In view of these facts it is therefore,

RESOLVED: That this record of its regret be spread upon the minutes of the Board and that the Secretary be directed to transmit to Mr. Crooks' family an engrossed copy as an expression of the personal sorrow felt by his colleagues and their sympathy for those who, knowing him best grieve most deeply.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the flag on the Administration Building be placed at half mast, that the offices of the Board be closed on the day of the funeral, and that this Commission attend the funeral in a body."

The death of Commissioner Robert F. Ballantine, on December 10, 1905, was noted in the last annual report, but the appointment of his successor was not made until January 9th, 1906. The Chief Justice selected Mr. Franklin Murphy to fill out the unexpired term of four years and four months. Mr. Murphy was one of the original members of the permanent board, having been appointed in 1895 for the five-year term. In 1900 he was reappointed, but his election as Governor of the State necessitated his retirement. Mr. Ballantine succeeded him, and he now returns to the Commission as Mr. Ballantine's successor.

During the year 1905 an earnest effort was made by the citizens of the Fifth and Eleventh Wards of the City of Newark to secure for that locality a neighborhood park in order that this densely populated area might have a recreation ground which its young men and women might enjoy without the necessity of going too far from their

homes. This Commission was urged by the various associations having the matter in charge to lay out such a park, and the need of it was clearly demonstrated. The Board, however, although recognizing the good which such a breathing space would accomplish was compelled to state to the petitioners that there was no money in its construction account for such an undertaking. In the last report, on pages 24, 25 and 26, the Commission explained this lack of funds, at the same time stating its belief in the wisdom of creating additional neighborhood parks as the population of the County becomes more dense, and adding, "The Commissioners believe that the time will come when the necessity of such additions will be so clearly manifest that they will be secured."

The last Legislature, at the instance of these associations, assisted by the citizens of Bloomfield and Irvington, passed a bill, giving this Board an additional appropriation of \$300,000, should the people endorse it at the polls. It was understood that \$200,000 of this money was to be expended for a play ground in the section of Newark already mentioned, and the remainder was to secure parks for Bloomfield and Irvington, the money to be about equally divided. At the election held on November 6th last, the people voted the money by a majority of nearly five thousand, all but two of the fifteen Newark wards endorsing it, and almost all the outlying municipalities. The result was most gratifying to the Commission. It had refrained from taking part in the effort to secure the appropriation, either before the Legislature or at the polls, although in the last report the need for more neighborhood parks was emphatically stated. The Board feels, therefore, that the majority recorded represents the deliberate judgment of the people of the County, and is an endorsement, not only of the specific proposition presented, but also of the park movement in general, and the way in which the work in Essex County has been carried out.

This act is the fifth measure granting park appropriations to this Board which has been voted upon by the people. Four were grants for construction, and one fixed the amount of park maintenance. Every one has been ratified by a substantial majority.

Ever since it received the official notification of the passage of the Act, the Board has been endeavoring to secure the land needed for these improvements. The sites, however, were so well known, that in the time intervening between the passage of the law by the Legislature, and its acceptance at the polls, land speculators obtained control of large portions of the desired land. The owners of the remaining parcels also placed on their holdings a higher value. This trouble is experienced to the greatest degree in the cost of the Newark park, which the Commission desires to construct as speedily as possible.

The work of construction has been vigorously pushed during the past year with the money still in hand from the appropriation of 1901. After an unavoidable delay the contract for connecting the lakes of the Southern and Middle Divisions of Branch Brook Park has been completed. This gives a continuous water surface of about five thousand feet from Orange street to Bloomfield avenue, which was greatly enjoyed during the past summer by those who delight in boating. The park drives and walks are also continuous under the bridge, making it unnecessary for drivers or pedestrians to leave the park in going from one division to the other. The cost of this improvement was \$40,861.58. The waterway under the Bloomfield Avenue Bridge has been completed also. An entrance drive has been constructed connecting the roadway of the Northern Division with Park avenue. The land surrounding both these improvements has been planted with trees and shrubs according to the plans of the landscape architects.

The concert grove in the Southern Division has been beautified by the erection of a concrete wall four hundred and seventy-five feet in length with an ornamental concrete balustrade.

Its cost was \$6,244.94. There is a boat landing in the center of the wall seventy feet long with a flight of steps leading from the water to the concert grove. The wall, landing and steps are all of reinforced concrete construction.

During the past year three shelters have been erected in this park. The first is the boat house on the site of the temporary structure at the southern end of the lake near Orange Street. Its cost was \$25,010.15.

It is of frame and concrete construction, having shingle roof with side walls of cement in smooth finish, the color being white. The buildings, together with platform, boat sheds, etc., cover an area three hundred and fifteen feet long by fifty to one hundred feet in width. The main building is one hundred and thirty by forty-seven feet, and has two stories, the upper being used for kitchen and storage of supplies. The lower portion is used as an assembly room, containing lunch counter, tables for serving refreshments, lockers for checking goods, etc. Toilet accommodations for men and women are located on either side of the main room. At each end of the main building are canoe houses for the storage of private canoes, the size of these buildings is twenty-four and one-half by twenty-five feet. The outside main platform is one hundred and eighty-two feet long, and from six to thirty-one feet in width. At the end of the platform are repair sheds and houses for the storage and repair of boats during the winter months. These houses are seventy feet long and twenty feet wide. The building is lighted by electricity and heated by steam and hot water.

The Board has leased the boating, skating and refreshment privileges on this lake for a term of five years for the sum of \$1,000 per year, and the lessee agrees further to

provide janitor service, heat and light and maintain the building. For the convenience of those wishing to engage boats a landing has been erected near Bloomfield Avenue in order that parties may begin their journey from either end of the lake.

A shelter was erected in the middle Division for the little children using the wading pool, which from its shape has been called the Octagon. Its cost was \$4,225.09.

This building is situated on the slope of Lake Street and is almost hidden by the shrubbery. It was completed late last summer. It is thirty-three by thirty-three feet in size and is constructed of concrete blocks with a pebble dash finish, the roof being of shingles. This building is devoted exclusively to the use of small children using the wading pool and is divided into two sections, one for the use of the boys and one for the use of the girls. The lockers are located in the center of the building. They are in charge of a matron who keeps a watchful eye over the children. Besides the lockers the building contains toilet accommodations for both sexes, shower and foot baths, etc.

The third building in this park is the field house, erected on the knoll in the Northern Division, between the tennis courts and the playfield. Its cost was \$10,195.77.

This is a large and handsome building and was erected last fall. This building is ninety-two feet six inches long and is of concrete block construction with a pebble dash finish outside and has a shingle roof. The main room is located in the center of the building and is provided with open lockers and is used principally for the checking of tennis and baseball paraphernalia and wearing apparel. On the left of the main entrance are located the men's dressing rooms containing the closed lockers for the use of which a nominal rental is charged, the open lockers being free. At the end of the men's room are the shower baths and lavatory. The women's dressing rooms are to the right

of the main entrance. They are also provided with closed lockers which are rented in the same manner as the men's. The women's rooms are provided with shower and needle baths, lavatories, etc. The building is in charge of a janitor and matron, whose duty it is to properly care for the building together with the checking of goods, etc. The completion of this building so thoroughly supplements the opening of the playfields of the Northern Division that the most desirable conditions of health, convenience, and pleasure now surround the public use of tennis, baseball, football, and the other sports of the playfield.

All these buildings have been furnished with electric lighting. The playfield in the Northern Division was used for the first time last summer, and hereafter all cricket games and baseball and football contests between teams composed of those over fifteen years will be played on these grounds. The ground between Sussex Avenue, the Canal, Duryee and Orange Streets was improved during the past season, and converted into a playground. This tract was originally purchased to provide an entrance to the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park in order to avoid the necessity of crossing the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at grade, as well as the trolley tracks on Orange Street as stated in the last report (vide page 9). The change of plan of the railroad company rendered this use impossible and the only other available use was the one to which it has now been put. It has a running track with four laps to the mile, gymnastic apparatus and a shelter provided with lockers, dressing rooms, etc. The borders are planted with trees and shrubs, and a path surrounds the recreation field.

During the past season the Board has greatly elaborated its system of playgrounds and gymnastic instruction. Hitherto the Newark Board of Education has conducted the summer school athletic department in the various city parks with the consent and co-operation of this Commission.

But the funds at its disposal have not permitted continuing the season beyond the middle of August. Last summer, however, this Commission decided to undertake the work itself. Athletic apparatus was installed in Branch Brook Park, Southern Division, Sussex Avenue Addition, in East-side Park, Westside Park and Watsessing Park, at a cost of \$5,792.37.

The parks were equipped with parallel bars, ladders, poles, traveling and flying rings and a complete complement of the most improved floor apparatus, consisting of leather covered horse and buck, high and parallel bars, etc. After the close of the season, under the direction of the city authorities, this Board continued the work until November 1st, keeping the playgrounds open all day when the schools were not in session, and on school days after school hours. The work was placed in charge of Mr. David I. Kelly, who had served in a similar capacity under the New York Park Department and who has had several years' experience in this and kindred branches of settlement work. Competent teachers were engaged, and the children were instructed in the proper use of the apparatus, guarded from too vigorous exercise and at the same time given suitable lessons as to cleanliness and right conduct. A kindergarten was maintained for those who desired to avail themselves of it and the children were taught to weave baskets, make such useful articles as usually come within this class of instruction, and an earnest effort was made to arouse in them a sense of fairness, a respect for the rights of others, and a higher and better deportment. The little girls were taught to sew, how to make beds, iron and perform correctly the usual household duties, and their eagerness to learn, and steady improvement was very marked and most gratifying. Hereafter the Commission will conduct this branch of park maintenance itself and will keep the playgrounds open from May 1st until November 1st, arranging the hours so as not to

interfere with school sessions. The Board considers this one of the most important uses of public parks, and from a careful study of conditions in the large cities of the country, is convinced that great good can thus be accomplished. The attendance at these playfields was amazing, running to a maximum during the month of July of 161,646. The aggregate and average attendance as taken from the police and green-keepers' reports was as follows:

MONTH OF MAY.	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	Average Daily Attendance
Branch Brook.....	31,328	1,118
Eastside	5,207	216
Westside	7,781	353
Orange	2,269	90
	46,585	1,777
MONTH OF JUNE.		
Branch Brook.....	35,176	1,172
Eastside	8,732	310
Westside	14,212	528
Orange	2,940	113
Watsessing	209	11
	61,269	2,134
MONTH OF JULY.		
Branch Brook.....	62,233	2,007
Eastside	41,655	1,343
Westside	54,020	1,742
Orange	3,411	117
Watsessing	327	11
	161,646	5,220

MONTH OF AUGUST.	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	Average Daily Attendance
Branch Brook.....	53,339	1,720
Eastside	31,610	1,019
Westside	51,683	1,722
Orange	3,650	146
Watsessing	6,570	219
	146,852	4,826

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.		
Branch Brook.....	23,888	796
Eastside	17,677	588
Westside	10,890	375
Orange	2,728	113
Watsessing	2,775	102
	57,958	1,974

MONTH OF OCTOBER.		
Branch Brook.....	3,321	127
Eastside	4,442	159
Westside	3,403	130
Orange	560	40
Watsessing	1,670	55
	13,396	511

GAME FIELDS.						
Branch Brook,	Tennis	Baseball	Football	Cricket	Croquet	
Middle Div.....		5,625	1,530			
Branch Brook,						
Northern Div.	3,594	4,275	840	1,175		
Eastside	435					44
Westside	660					
Orange	621					
Watsessing		900				
Weequahic	321	975				
	5,631	11,775	2,370	1,175	44	

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Westside	1,605
Wassessing	797
	2,402

WADING POOLS

Branch Brook, Middle Division	19,550
Orange	5,601
	25,151

The wading pool attendance at Westside Park is included in playground attendance.

In order that Essex County might have the advantage of the best and most advanced thought and experience in this matter, several experts, who have made this branch of park work a special study in New York, were invited to come to Newark and give this Board the benefit of their advice, criticism and suggestion. It is a pleasure to quote from their reports. One says, "Your record sheets are very interesting as well as instructive, for I had no idea your attendance was so large. The teachers and gymnastic instructors, I notice, are of the highest type, and that to my mind is one of the most important features in accomplishing the results we are looking for in playgrounds. The field house in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park was a revelation in Park equipment, showing that those of experience had planned it." Mr. A. A. Hill, Secretary of the Metropolitan Parks Association, wrote, "I have long contended that playgrounds and game fields could be laid out in practically all our parks without detriment to the landscape value of the park, and this the Essex county system has proved." Mr. Hill further commends the system of issuing permits, and requests copies for use in New York.

Following out the playground idea, the Board prepared two playfields at Eastside Park, one for boys and one for girls, fully equipped according to the latest models. A running track has also been constructed with eight laps to the mile. Two shelters are being erected here, one at each recreation ground. The boys' house will cost \$1,189.00 the girls' \$1,896.00.

At Westside Park, also, an outdoor gymnasium is in course of construction, and a children's playground, sand court and shelter at a cost of \$2,174.00. All these buildings will be ready for use next spring and will be fully described in the next report.

This park was further improved by coping all the terrace walls at a cost of \$595.90.

The contract for the substitution of concrete steps in place of wooden ones in all the parks, mentioned in the last report, has been completed. The contract price was \$4,120.02. The sidewalks surrounding the parks have also been improved, concrete being laid in almost every instance. The total cost was \$8,162.53. It included Park Avenue, Parker Street, Lake Street, Bloomfield Avenue and Elwood Avenue at Branch Brook Park, all the boundary streets of Westside Park save Fourteenth, which the city of Newark has as yet not graded. Belleville Avenue, Montclair Park, Central Avenue and Reynolds Street, Orange Park.

At Weequahic Reservation the attendance increased so rapidly that it became necessary to erect buildings for the accommodation of the visitors. A boat house has accordingly been built at the end of the lake nearest Meeker Avenue. Its cost was \$13,843.40.

It is situated at the easterly end of the lake near Meeker Avenue. This building is eighty-eight by thirty feet with a dock the entire length of the building. The building is of frame construction with a smooth cement finish and has a shingle roof, stained red, which is a pleasing contrast

with the light colored cement. Owing to the nature of the ground in which the building is located, it was necessary to drive piles for the foundation, in which are reinforced concrete beams to support the structure. In the centre of the building is the main room, thirty feet square. This room has a large brick fireplace. To the right of the main room is the women's lavatory and on the other end of the building is the men's smoking room and lavatory. The interior decoration of the building is plaster of a light color and the wood work finish is oak. Ample provision has been made for checking of goods. The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity and is in charge of a janitor and manager.

A field house has also been begun, but as it is not yet completed a detailed description of it will be postponed until the next report. The bridge over the Lehigh Valley Railroad described in the last report, has been completed, the border around near Meeker Avenue has been planted, and a large number of trees set out throughout the reservation. The swamp near Meeker Avenue is being filled with ashes at a cost to the Commission of twenty-five cents per cubic yard delivered. A new outlet constructed of concrete has been finished at the southern end of the lake at a cost of \$4,209.23.

The city of Newark, at the earnest solicitation of this Board, has graded and curbed Meeker Avenue, a border street of this reservation. It is much to be hoped that next season it will be paved also, as it is the principal approach to the reservation, and in wet weather is sometimes in such a condition as to be almost impassible. This portion of the park system was originally acquired as a reservation, a term in the language of park makers meaning a tract of land, which, while of such great natural beauty that it should be permanently preserved, is not expected to be put to immediate use by any large number of people. It thus differs from a park, which is a landscape created chiefly

or wholly from unattractive and unmarketable ground to meet the needs of the present generation. Weequahic Reservation, however, has been so very popular and such large crowds of people have been attracted to it by the remarkable beauty of its lake and the splendor of its forest trees, that it now has few characteristics of a reservation, and will soon have to be considered as a park. The Road Horse Association, and the Automobile Club have had their meets there during the past summer, and as many as thirty thousand people have gathered on these occasions to enjoy the sport. The tennis courts and athletic fields are hardly ever idle, and it is hoped that the boating, which the Commission intends to inaugurate next summer, will give it added popularity. Fishing, also, will be allowed under proper restrictions. During the early part of last August a very large number of fish in the lake in this reservation died. Twelve cart loads in all were taken away during three days. It was at first thought that the water had been poisoned, but experts, who were at once employed by the Board declared this theory to be untenable. It was decided that the loss was due to the sudden decay of algæ in the lake which exhausted the oxygen in the water and made it impossible for the fish to live. It is gratifying to be able to state, that in spite of the enormous number of fish that died, a very large number yet remains. Moreover, the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission has very courteously placed one thousand black bass and one thousand five hundred white perch in the lake. The Board has resolved to take such preventive measures, as have been recommended by the experts employed, in the hope of avoiding a like occurrence next summer. The reports of the experts are appended to this report.

The Commission regrets very much that the city of Orange has changed its plans concerning its water supply, and cannot furnish water for the brook at South Mountain Reservation, according to the method outlined in detail in

the last report (Vide page 22). The authorities of that city abandoned, at least for the present, their intention of erecting a reservoir within the limits of the reservation, and consequently were not in a position to furnish the water as agreed. They did, however, purchase and present to the County two tracts of land aggregating 4.86 acres which have been included within the park limits.

A stable has been erected here at a cost of \$7,629.62, of thoroughly modern construction and lighted throughout by electricity. The buildings are of frame, with a finish of white cedar shingles. The design of the buildings and sheds is such as to form a hollow square in the centre of which is a well sheltered yard. The main stable building containing the stalls, is one hundred and twenty-three by twenty-seven feet and has accommodations for twenty-three horses. The floor is of cement and care has been taken to make it as sanitary as possible. Connected with the horse stable is the wagon room over which is the storage for hay, oat and feed bins, etc. Connected with the stable are the carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, tool room and open sheds. The stable is supplied with water from a small reservoir on the park land about a quarter of a mile distant. The buildings have been in use since last July. The sewage from the stable is disposed of according to plans prepared by James Owen, Esq., County Engineer, and with the approval of the authorities of the City of Orange. Particular care was taken to adopt the most recent sanitary plans, so that the sewage could by no possibility contaminate the Orange Water Shed. We are informed that such a contingency cannot happen.

Cherry Lane, which runs within the reservation limits from Northfield Road to South Orange Avenue, has been regraded and macadamized. The cost was \$3,935.56.

The Board has also removed from the land recently acquired several ugly and unsightly buildings, and those that remain have been painted a uniform color.

The Commission is endeavoring to encourage the development of wild life in this reservation which seems peculiarly adapted to it. The Park Police are under strict orders to arrest all who enter the reservation with fire arms and to allow no shooting or hunting whatever. The Commission is considering plans for stocking the reservation with such kinds of game as can be successfully maintained there, and in its next report will probably be able to announce its action therein.

The Commission has also erected a stable at Eagle Rock Reservation at a cost of \$3,531.95, which was completed in July. It is of similar design to the stable at South Mountain Reservation, but much smaller in size, it only having accommodations for six horses, besides storage rooms and wagon sheds. It is located northwest of Eagle Rock and is almost entirely hidden from view on account of the dense woods surrounding it.

The completion of the East Orange Parkway is still delayed by the inaction of the City authorities of that municipality. This Board has now waited nearly five years, and has used every possible endeavor to procure a suitable outlet for its drainage. Until such an outlet is secured it cannot proceed with the final improvements of that section between Main Street and Central Avenue.

Park Avenue has been resurfaced from end to end at a cost of \$4,053.62.

The Commission desires to improve this avenue more elaborately and regrets that the commencement of this work has been delayed. Under the law the municipalities through which it runs control the sidewalks, the Park Commission being vested only with the street itself. Before proceeding to macadam the street, therefore, it would be necessary to have it guttered and curbed by municipal ordinance. This Board on the 8th day of May last passed the following resolution and forwarded it to the governing bodies of Newark, East Orange, Orange and West Orange:

"WHEREAS: The condition of the roadway of Park Avenue is unsatisfactory alike to the resident property owners and to the Commission in whose custody the avenue has been placed; and the dirt wings on each side of the central strip of macadam cannot be kept in good order without gutters competent to carry the surface water; nor can the wings be safely replaced with macadam until such gutters shall be constructed; and

WHEREAS: In justice to the other property owners of the county it does not seem equitable that such gutters should be constructed at public expense by this Commission: Therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the municipalities of Newark, East Orange, Orange and West Orange be requested to order gutters constructed on each side of Park Avenue in accordance with the practices prevailing in the respective municipalities as a preliminary to the proper macadamizing and care of said avenue by this Commission,"

No assurances have been received that the desired action will be taken. The Park Board is still of the opinion that, if the road bed is macadamized at County expense, without assessment, the abutting property owners should pay for curb and gutters.

The reports of the Treasurer and that of the experts employed to investigate the death of the fish at Lake Weequahic last summer are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK M. SHEPARD,
FRANKLIN MURPHY,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
P. SANFORD ROSS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer submits herewith a tabulated statement of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending December 31st ,1906.

CONSTRUCTION,

1906.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand December 31st, 1905		\$595,920.42
Received from Interest	\$11,008.55	
Sales wood, old material, etc.	15,140.72	26,149.27
		<u>\$622,069.69</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Eagle Rock Reservation	\$200.00	
South Mountain Reservation, ...	1,883.00	
Parkways	959.16	3,042.16

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park	\$98,095.71	
Eastside Park	3,680.60	
Westside Park	7,462.32	
Orange Park	1,026.95	
Watsessing Park	2,544.02	
Montclair Park	231.54	
Weequahic Reservation	33,603.83	
Eagle Rock Reservation	4,288.41	
South Mountain Reservation ..	11,286.08	
East Orange Parkway	1,192.06	
Park Avenue.....	7,025.82	170,437.34

ITEMS.

Grading	\$ 80.00	
Paving and Sewerage.....	26,291.90	
Trees and Plants.....	1,018.39	
Labor	53,093.97	
Tools and Implements.....	6,362.99	
Gardening Materials.....	417.30	
Buildings and Bridges.....	82,387.62	
Fences and Fountains.....	363.62	
Miscellaneous	421.55	
	<u>\$170,437.34</u>	

OFFICE.

Legal	\$1,586.11	
Architects and Engineers	5,773.19	7,359.30

Cash on hand December 31st, 1906.....		\$180,838.80
		<u>\$441,230.89</u>
		<u>\$622,069.69</u>

MAINTENANCE,

1906.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand December 31st, 1905		*\$16,860.88
Received from Essex County.....	\$122,835.58	
Interest	1,166.66	
Rents	3,409.50	127,411.74
		<u>\$144,272.62</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$64,244.40	
Eastside Park	4,333.59	
Westside Park	6,144.41	
Orange Park	7,937.82	
Watsessing Park	1,303.10	
Montclair Park	2,413.10	
Weequahic Reservation	10,721.41	
Eagle Rock Reservation	4,303.70	
South Mountain Reservation..	16,119.93	
East Orange Parkway.....	2,702.68	
Park Avenue.....	8,093.56	
Prospect Avenue	1.75	128,319.45
		<u></u>

ITEMS.

Police	\$ 15,363.24
Wages	59,162.09
Tools and Supplies.....	53,794.12
	<u>\$128,319.45</u>

OFFICE.

Traveling	\$ 808.90	
Stationery and Printing	1,701.86	
Office Supplies	151.50	
Salaries	9,804.77	
Rents, Telephones, etc.	2,670.10	15,137.13
		<u></u>

Cash on hand December 31st, 1906.....	\$143,456.58
	\$ 816.04
	<u>\$144,272.62</u>

*As stated in Treasurer's report for 1905, this balance was subject to outstanding bills of about \$9,000.

JOHN R. HARDIN,
Treasurer.

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,

Certified Public Accountant.

Report on Lake Weequahic

SEPTEMBER 28, 1906.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE ESSEX COUNTY PARK COMMISSION:

GENTLEMEN—In accordance with your instructions we have made an investigation to determine the cause of the sudden death of fish in the lake at Weequahic Reservation which took place on Sunday and Monday, August 19th and 20th, 1906. On August 22d we presented to you a preliminary report giving the results of our first study and certain tentative conclusions. In this report we state again these conclusions and give in full the data which have been collected. We also make certain recommendations in regard to the future treatment of the lake.

The lake in the Weequahic Reservation of the Essex County Park System is really an artificial reservoir. Its construction was begun seven years ago when a roadway was built across Bound Creek. Three years ago this roadway was formed into a substantial dam.

The lake has a drainage area of approximately one square mile. Its water surface is about eighty acres. Its average depth is between five and six feet, but it is said that there are certain places in the lake along the old bed of the creek where the water is ten or twelve feet deep. The site of the reservoir before construction was a swamp, in which the mud and peaty matter varied in depth from two to ten feet. Nearly half of its area was covered with a heavy growth of cat-tails. The peat and mud were not

removed from the reservoir bottom at the time when the dam was built, but since then masses of peat, alder roots, old stumps, and cat-tails have been taken out as they have floated to the surface. Although great quantities of such matter have been removed, much remains. At the time of our inspection on August 21st, we found many floating alder roots and masses of peat at the south end of the lake.

It is said that there are numerous springs at the bottom of the lake. Measurements have been made of the run-off which have shown that the average discharge is about 1.5 million gallons per day, a high figure for a watershed of only one square mile, and indicating a considerable influx of ground water.

There are two inflowing brooks. One of these, a small one, flows through a cemetery; the other flows through a bog-hole, entering the lake through a culvert under the railroad.

The bottom of the lake at the present time is covered with mud. Aquatic plants, water weeds and filamentous algae are conspicuously absent. It is said that during the last two years floating microscopic algae (the so-called plankton) have been present in large numbers during the summer;—in other words the lake has shown the phenomenon of purging or blooming. The algae growths have generally started in July and continued well into September. During August of the present year the algae have been much more abundant than usual.

The outlet of the lake is at the north end. Until recently there was a spillway five feet wide over the dam, but a few weeks before the death of the fish this spillway was closed and an outlet provided through a pipe passing through the dam. The intake of this pipe is less than two feet below the surface of the water.

Sometime during Sunday night, August 19th, large numbers of fish died in the lake. When the attendants left the reservation on Sunday afternoon no dead fish were

noticed around the shores, but on Monday morning they were found in great quantities. They continued to die during the day and also during Monday night. Twelve two-horse loads of dead fish were picked up on Monday and buried, and it has been estimated that in all upwards of 120,000 fish, or more than fifteen tons, died during these two days. The dead fish included bass, roach (white fish), sun-fish, cat-fish (horn-pout), suckers, eels, and a few carp. They varied in size from sun-fish, only two inches long, to black bass weighing from five to six pounds, while one carp weighed nearly twenty pounds.

The dead fish were found in all parts of the lake. On Monday it was noticed that they were especially numerous near the two inflowing brooks. Instinct had apparently led them to seek the water entering the lake. Some of the eels even left the lake and traveled up one of the brooks for a considerable distance. Near the centre of the lake there is a spring, and it was said that fish in the vicinity of this spring were found to be living and were more lively than some of the living fish found elsewhere.

The dead fish were removed from the lake with scoops as fast as they floated to the shore and were buried, with the intention of ultimately using them as a fertilizer.

It was thought by some of the people of Newark that the lake water was poisoned sometime during Sunday night. Others have thought that the lake had been dynamited. There seems to be no evidence to support either of these ideas. In fact, the available evidence is contrary to these theories. The lake is so large that its waters could not have been poisoned to an extent sufficient to kill the fish without using large quantities of poison, or without having it thoroughly distributed through the general body of the lake. It does not seem likely that this could have been done. Examination of the dead fish did not show any abnormal appearance which could be attributed to poisoning. Neither did the fish bear any evidence of the lake's

having been dynamited: no effects of concussion could be observed in the bodies of the dead fish. The fish did not show any evidence of having died from disease; no special organs of the fish were in an abnormal condition, and no evidence of fungus or bacterial growths could be observed about them other than those causing natural decay after death.

It does not seem to be necessary to resort to any of these theories to explain the cause of the death of the fish. A sufficient cause is to be found in the sudden exhaustion of the oxygen in the waters of the lake which occurred on Sunday, August 19th, and which was probably due to the decay of the algae. The fish apparently died by suffocation. On Monday it was noticed that many of the fish were gulping air at the surface of the water, and it was observed that very many of the dead fish died with their mouths open,—a phenomenon which has been observed before when fish have died from this cause. Examination of specimens of fish by Mr. C. H. Townsend, Director of the New York Aquarium, showed that they were in a normal condition, as would be the case if they died from lack of air. The fact that many fish sought the incoming waters, which were well aerated, is also an evidence that oxygen was lacking in the water of the lake. Among the fish which were found dead a very large proportion were roach, and it is known that this fish is particularly susceptible to the exhaustion of oxygen.

We did not begin our observations until Tuesday, August 21st, after the dying of the fish had practically ceased. That the water was devoid of oxygen on Sunday and Monday seems a natural inference from the analyses which were made on Tuesday about 5 P. M. Samples of water were collected at different depths at both ends of the lake and tested in the field for dissolved oxygen. Near the south end of the lake it was found that at the surface the water was only half saturated with oxygen. At a

depth of one foot the amount was only one-third of that required to saturate it, while below that depth the oxygen was practically absent. At the north end of the lake the surface water contained 79 per cent. of oxygen required to saturate it, while at a depth of three feet it contained 3 per cent. In other words, below a depth of one or two feet the water of the lake was practically devoid of oxygen.

That the exhaustion of oxygen was largely due to the decay of algae seems certain. During Sunday it was remarked by the attendants at the park that the color of the water was changing from green to a yellowish brown, and that as night came on the water became clearer than it had been. Our experience with algae growths in the past leads us to believe that these changes were due to the death of the algae and their settlement to the bottom of the lake. At the bottom of the lake the algae decomposed, as was evidenced by innumerable bubbles of gas which were seen rising through the water on Monday and Tuesday. This phenomenon was noticed by the men on Monday when the dead fish were first seen, and it was still strongly marked on Tuesday afternoon when we made our first examination. It seems likely that decomposition of the muck at the bottom of the lake also contributed to the exhaustion of oxygen. Furthermore, the oxygen being exhausted at the bottom allowed putrefaction to set in, the conditions being somewhat analogous to what goes on in a septic tank of a sewage disposal system. Decomposition occurred to such an extent at the south end of the lake that great masses of roots and peat floated to the surface and drifted around as miniature islands. On disturbing these with a pole large volumes of gas were liberated.

The exhaustion of oxygen, then, may be said to have been due primarily to the decay of the algae, but partly to the decomposition of the peaty matter at the bottom of the lake.

Microscopical analysis of the water made on Tuesday, August 21st, showed that the prevailing species present were *Clathrocystis* and *Anabaena*. The sample contained great masses of broken down algæ which could not be identified. Unquestionably the algæ growth prior to Sunday must have been very heavy.

We have been unable to find satisfactory data showing the limits to which oxygen in water may be exhausted without affecting fish life. That water entirely devoid of oxygen will not support fish life is well known, and that slight reductions in the amount of oxygen below the point of saturation do not materially affect fish life is also the case. But the absolute amount of oxygen necessary for the life of various kinds of fish is not known with certainty.

Some experiments have been made in this connection by those interested in methods of sewage disposal. The ability of fish to live in sewage effluents has been frequently used as a test of satisfactory oxygenation. In Clowes' work on "Experimental Bacterial Treatment of London Sewage" it is stated that sewage effluents that contain 38 per cent. of the amount of oxygen required for saturation were capable of sustaining the life of gold fish indefinitely, while in these same effluents less hardy fish, such as roach, dace and perch, became sickly after living in the effluent for a week or so. In Dibdin's "Purification of Sewage and Water" reference is made to a prolonged series of experiments on the Thames river water, which showed that when the percentage of aeration fell below 50 per cent. there was little chance of fish thriving in the water, and that when it fell below 30 per cent. no fish could sustain life for any prolonged period.

In a private communication from Mr. J. M. Smith, Acting United States Fish Commissioner, he stated that in experiments made with trout a high mortality was found in waters which had a saturation of about 35 per cent.

Instances are on record where fish have been killed in streams by the discharge of manufacturing wastes which had no poisonous character, but which were of such a nature as, by their decomposition, to temporarily exhaust the oxygen from the water.

Different fish require different amounts of oxygen. It is said that eels get along with less oxygen than many fish. It seems certain, however, from the information at hand, that when the point of saturation of water falls as low as 20 per cent. or 30 per cent. there is sure to be a high mortality among the common fish of our lakes and rivers.

In order to get back to the primary cause of the death of the fish it remains to be ascertained what caused the sudden decomposition of the algæ on Sunday, August 19th. As no examinations were made at that time we can only speculate as to what this was. Unquestionably several factors worked together to produce the sudden death of the algæ. Of these the meteorological conditions which existed for a number of days before the phenomenon took place must have been very important. The weather had been extremely warm and the temperature of the water must have become very high at the surface. On August 21st the temperature of the surface water was 82°. In all probability it had been higher on preceding days, as the weather had been hot and the humidity high enough to prevent evaporation from the surface. There had been but little wind, and for a number of days previous the surface of the lake had preserved a mirror-like calmness. Under these conditions the lake water became temporarily stratified, with the warmer water at the top. During such quiet weather algæ such as we found present on Tuesday tend to rise to the surface and form a scum. Becoming concentrated near the surface the tendency would be for their food material to become exhausted, while the high temperature itself would be prejudicial to their growth.

Another fact worth mentioning was the almost complete absence of aquatic plants from the lake. No water-weeds of eel grass, or even filamentous algæ were to be found anywhere along the shores. On the other hand the result of the fish fatality showed that the lake must have been to a very considerable extent overstocked with animal life. In other words, there was no equilibrium between the animal and plant life in the lake. Speaking generally, animal life makes a heavy drain on the oxygen contents of a natural body of water; plant life tends to restore it. Certain kinds of algæ, namely, those which contain chlorophyll, are powerful oxygenators. There is some reason to believe that the blue green algæ which have been abundant in the lake during the present season are not as vigorous oxygenators as those algæ which have green chlorophyll instead of the blue green modification of it. At any rate it has been noticed for many years that oxygen has been deficient in reservoirs where these organisms have predominated.

Algæ require carbonic acid. In such a lake as that in the Weequahic Reservation this is derived very largely from the decay of carbonaceous material at the bottom. When the water is in a state of circulation this carbonic acid manufactured by the bacteria at the bottom of the lake is distributed through the water, furnishing food to the algæ. Stratification would tend to cut off the supply of carbonic acid from those organisms which were at or near the surface. Some algæ appear to have some power to seize carbonic acid from the bicarbonates in the water, but there is a limit to which this can be done. In the present case the amount of carbonic acid that can be derived from the bicarbonates in the water is not great and undoubtedly would not be great enough to support the immense growth of algæ which were present on August 19th.

The idea that some unknown cause killed both the fish and the algæ does not seem tenable. Unquestionably the

decay of the algæ preceded the destruction of the fish, and the sequence of events is such as to believe that the case was one of direct cause and effect in the manner described.

It has been thought by some that the change in the outlet above referred to has been responsible in some measure for the death of the algæ. In our opinion this is not the case. The change could have had no effect on the algæ growths. The pond is so shallow that, under ordinary conditions, the water is in complete circulation from top to bottom, and hence it can make little difference whether the waste is taken from the surface or from a point two or three feet below it. The algæ are so light and small, and their specific gravity is so nearly that of water, that they are usually very evenly distributed by the circulating water. Only in conditions of very quiet weather do they rise to the surface to such an extent that they would be lost over the spillway in large amounts, and during such short periods the amounts lost over the spillway would be relatively small. If Lake Weequahic were a deep lake, and if the outlet were far below the surface, there might be some reason for thinking that the thermal stratification would have an effect on the difference of the water which would be discharged over a surface spillway or through a submerged outlet; but in the present instance such is not the case.

As it is at the bottom that decomposition chiefly takes place there would even seem to be some slight advantage in wasting the bottom water rather than the water at the surface, as it is this water, laden with the products of decomposition, which stimulates algæ growths.

From the data at hand the best theory that can be offered in explanation of the death of the algæ is that it was brought on by an exhaustion of food material caused by the severe meteorological conditions which produced temporary stagnation, and in some measure, perhaps, by the high temperature of the water.

In our preliminary report we stated that no steps need be taken to restore the oxygen to the water, and that the oxygen would be restored naturally as soon as strong winds occurred sufficient to ruffle the surface of the lake. The return to normal conditions occurred even sooner than we had anticipated. On Wednesday, August 22d, a breeze sprung up which ruffled the surface of the lake at one end considerably. This led to a considerable restoration of the oxygen in the upper layers of the water. Two days later the wind further increased and this resulted in the more complete oxidation of the water, especially at the end of the lake towards which the wind was blowing. Furthermore, another factor came in to still further increase the amount of oxygen. Following the decay of *Anabæna* and *Clathrocystis* other organisms began to make their appearance in large numbers. Among these were diatoms such as *Melosira* and *Cyclotella*, chlorophyllaceous algæ such as *Scenedesmus* and *Raphidium*, and the chlorophyllaceous protozoan, *Cryptomonas*. These organisms contain chlorophyll and are strong oxygenators. They developed with such rapidity that the oxygen in the water was increased beyond its point of saturation. This interesting phenomenon led us to extend our observations over a longer period of time.

Before describing the phenomenon of surcharging of the water with oxygen observed in Weequahic Lake it may not be out of place to state that the amount of oxygen which water will hold in solution depends upon its temperature, being nearly double as much in winter as it is in summer. For each temperature there is a certain amount of oxygen which will just saturate the water. If an analysis shows the presence of a smaller or larger amount than this, it is common to express the result in terms of the percentage of saturation. For example, if the per cent. of saturation is given as 50, it means that the water contains only half as much oxygen as it is capable of holding; if the

percentage is given as 150, it means that the water contains 50 per cent. more oxygen than that required to saturate it, or, in other words, it is surcharged.

A surcharging of the water with oxygen was first noticed in Weequahic lake on August 22d. At station B the water at the surface contained 149 per cent. of that required to saturate it, while the water at a depth of one foot contained 110 per cent. Below a depth of two feet oxygen was deficient, as shown by the figures given in the accompanying table. At station D on the same date the surface water contained 179 per cent. of that required to saturate it, while below a depth of two feet the conditions were about the same as at the other end of the lake, the percentages of saturation being low. The temperature observations on this date pointed to a marked stratification of the water.

On August 24th the stratification of the water had almost disappeared. This was shown by the fact that there was but little difference in the temperature of the water at the top and bottom, and also by the fact that the differences between the oxygen figures at the top and bottom were less. It was noticed that whenever the temperature difference was considerable the difference in the oxygen contents was also great.

As a result of the mixture of the water on August 24th, through the action of the wind, the surface water ceased to be surcharged, while the oxygen contents in the lower strata increased. These same conditions were observed on subsequent dates, and in general it was found to be true that whenever the water became stratified the surface layers became surcharged with oxygen, while after a mixing up of the water there was an increase in the amount of oxygen at the bottom, due to a distribution through the vertical of the excess oxygen from the surface.

Tests of the water for free carbonic acid showed that, in general, the amount varied inversely with the amount of

oxygen present. On those dates when the water was stratified and when the surface water was saturated with oxygen, the amounts of carbonic acid were low at the surface and high at the bottom. Apparently during the stagnant periods the water in the lower layers acquired carbonic acid, while the water in the upper layers acquired oxygen. When the waters became mixed up, through the action of the wind, there was a consequential evening up of both the oxygen and carbonic acid throughout the vertical.

In those cases where the result of the carbonic acid was recorded it was observed that the water acquired a pink color immediately after adding the phenolphthalein, indicating the presence of normal carbonates. In those samples which were collected on September 10th and 21st observations were made to determine how much acid it was necessary to add to render the water neutral to phenolphthalein. The results are recorded as negative quantities of carbonic acid and indicate the amount of carbonic acid abstracted from the bicarbonates in the water by the growing algæ. This power to abstract carbonic acid from the bicarbonates has been noticed by several observers, but no special attention has ever been called to the phenomenon.

It was not thought possible that the atmosphere could be responsible for the superabundance of oxygen at the surface, inasmuch as this occurred at times when the water was stratified rather than when the surface of the lake was ruffled by the wind. It was noticed that with the return of the oxygen to the water, after the decay of the blue green algæ, other microscopic organisms increased in amount as already mentioned. As these organisms contain chlorophyl they were naturally looked to as the source of this excess of oxygen.

After making a number of experiments to conclusively prove the accuracy of the analytical work an experiment

was made to determine whether or not the excess of oxygen was present in the structure of or attached to the organisms themselves. Samples of the water for the oxygen test were collected in such a way that the organisms were removed in situ before the samples were drawn from the lake. This experiment gave a negative result, and indicated that the excess of oxygen was present in the water itself. Further experiments showed that on letting the sample stand or on shaking it this excess of oxygen was readily liberated and the amount reduced to the normal degree of saturation.

The phenomenon of surcharging was undoubtedly a temporary one and was due to the fact that the growing algæ gave off more oxygen than was required to saturate the water. This being the case it was thought that when these conditions prevailed bubbles of gas ought to be mechanically suspended in the water, and a careful examination of the lake at a time when the highest figures were obtained showed that such was really the case. Microscopic bubbles of gas, presumably oxygen, could be seen rising in the water in the samples and escaping at the surface.

Although the general fact is well known that microscopic algæ tend to restore oxygen to the water, it is believed that this actual case of surcharging, resulting from an excessive growth of chlorophyllaceous algæ, is an interesting biological observation.

The present conditions of Lake Weequahic are unsatisfactory, and if the existing conditions are allowed to continue there seems to be no reason why similar fatalities among the fish may not occur in the future.

The amount of organic matter at the bottom of the lake is undoubtedly very large. The bottom is almost completely covered with muck and peat, although great quantities of roots and peat have been taken away from time to time as

they have floated to the surface. That this muck has an effect on the amount of organic matter in the water is plainly shown by the chemical analysis made by Mr. Baldwin.

To remove all the mud at the bottom would be very expensive and in our opinion unnecessary. There is reason to believe that old peat, which has been buried for years, causes less trouble when flooded than stumps, twigs, leaves and roots which have recently been removed in a living state. It would seem wise to have these removed as far as possible. We recommend that as soon as it becomes feasible the lake be drawn down and the bulk of the flooded alder roots, etc., be removed. The old peat may be left in place.

An equilibrium between animal and plant life should be maintained as far as possible. This is an extremely important matter. The growth of flowering aquatic plants should be encouraged in certain places in the lake. There are several coves where it would seem possible to start a growth of water lilies and other aquatic plants which would be not only ornamental but which would tend to produce the desired equilibrium.

We recommend further that the amount of fish life be kept down to a moderate limit. This might be done by granting permission for people to fish in the reservoir, under permit, during the early morning hours. We understand that this step has already been contemplated by your Board.

We recommend that no change be made in the outlet, for reasons already mentioned, but that if any accumulations of algæ and debris occur at the surface it shall be made a practice to remove them by skimming.

It is not to be expected that algæ growths will be prevented by the measures suggested. It does not seem feasible to entirely prevent them without going to great

expense. They are not seriously objectionable if they do not become excessive. Should they ever again increase to such an extent as occurred during the past summer it seems probable that the use of copper sulphate might be resorted to with advantage.

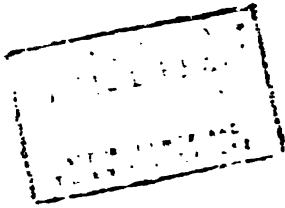
The removal of the recent organic accumulations at the bottom, and the stimulation of aquatic plant life, while they will not do away entirely with algæ growths ought to moderate the intensity of their growth, and prevent the depletion of oxygen which was the immediate cause of the death of the fish.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. WHIPPLE.

HERBERT B. BALDWIN.





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REPORT
OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1907

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HEMLOCK BROOK, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

B O A R D O F
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT

APPROVED MARCH 5, 1895

1907

MATTHIAS PLUM, PRINTER, NEWARK, N. J



BROOKSIDE DRIVE, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

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FRANKLIN MURPHY, - -	" "	1910
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MAPLE FALLS, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

R E P O R T O F
C O M M I S S I O N E R S



CAMP PIRION,
MUNCIE PARK

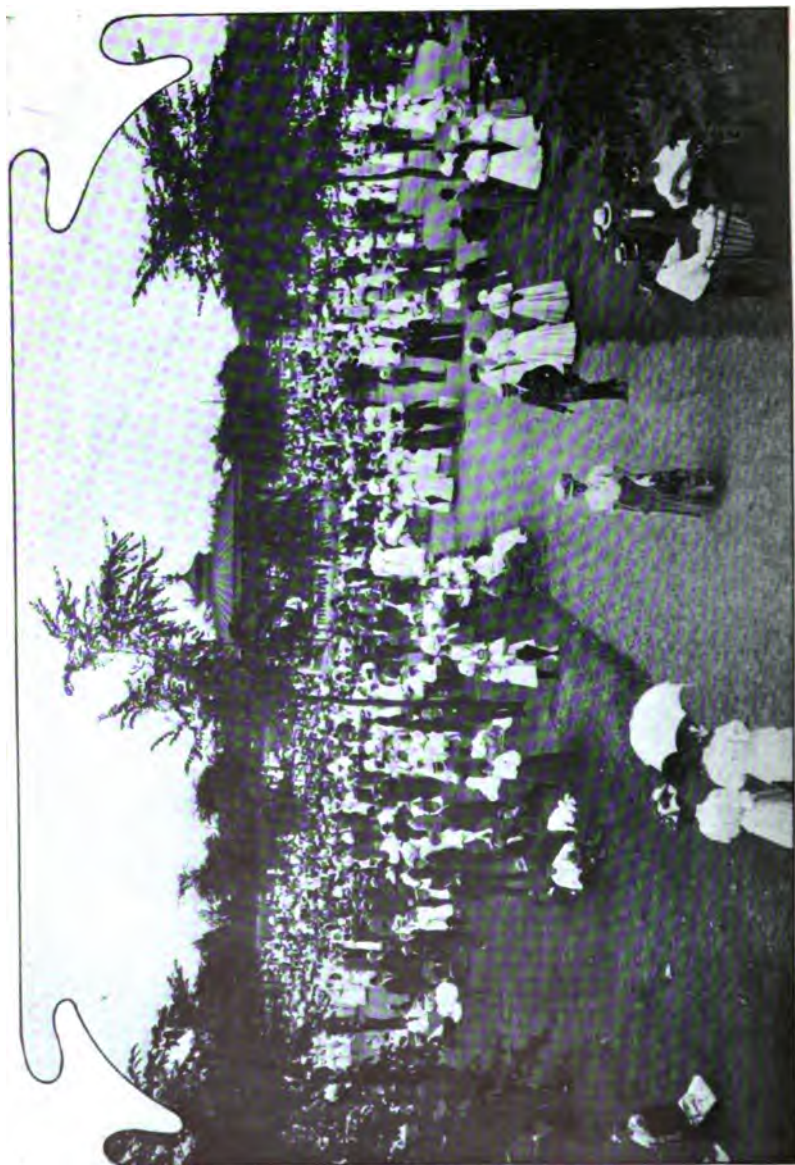
	R E P O R T	
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800 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.,

January 1st, 1908.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twelfth annual report. As the sixth report, that for 1901, was the last which contained illustrations, the present issue is accompanied by views of the various parks showing the progress made in their improvement.

Three new parks have been established during the past year in consequence of the passage by the Legislature of 1906 of an act directing the issuance of additional county bonds for park purposes to the amount of \$300,000 which act was endorsed by the people at the election held in November, 1906. The circumstances leading up to the passage of the act were explained in detail in the last annual report, pages 7, 8 and 9. In recapitulation, it may be here said that the additional expense was authorized because of the need of more neighborhood parks in thickly settled parts of the community where the young people can enjoy the healthy exercise afforded by properly conducted playgrounds, under the direction of competent instructors. The Board has always felt that the establishment of this kind of recreation areas is one of the most important functions of park development, and as the population of the community increases more will be found necessary. The park authorities of the City of New York have recognized this need and have established neighborhood parks in that city at great expense, in some instances acquiring city blocks entirely covered with buildings in order to accomplish the



BAND CONCERT,
BRANCH BROOK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

desired result. Fortunately Essex County has not been so backward in this movement as the neighboring metropolis and has hitherto been spared the expense of the wholesale destruction of buildings.

\$200,000 of the \$300,000 bond issue was set aside for the acquirement of two blocks in the City of Newark between Ferguson, Frederick and Market Streets and Passaic Avenue. The park is in the centre of a congested city district, but was not built upon to any great extent. It was the only tract of land in that section of like area, which was not entirely covered with buildings, and it is fortunate that the appropriation was made available at this time as the vacant land had just been acquired by a real estate company which had commenced the erection of tenements thereon, and would soon have covered it with buildings, which would have greatly increased the cost of acquirement. One of the two blocks, that bounded by Passaic Avenue, Market Street, Frederick Street and Chambers Street has been acquired at a cost of \$66,069.51, which includes five incomplete tenements and three houses, two of which were of a very substantial character. Last summer the Commission constructed on this land a temporary playground with open air gymnastic apparatus at a cost of \$862.75, and provided instructors for the children in order that the delay which is always unavoidable in securing property for municipal purposes, might not interfere with the immediate use by the public of this much-needed breathing space. The results were very gratifying, and the park was thronged with children during the summer months. The records given in the appendix show statistics as to the use of the apparatus, but it should be noted that many children came to the park to play their own games or to watch their companions, and these are not included in the enumeration.

The Commission hopes to secure the balance of the property this year, although it should be said that the

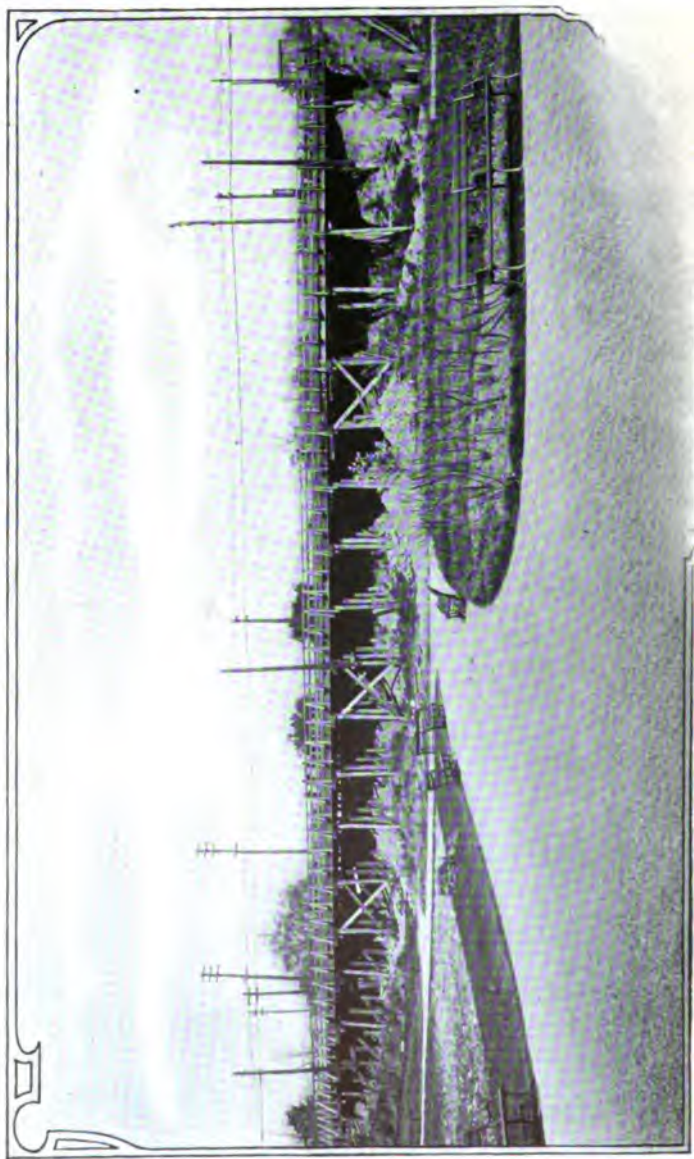


PARK AVENUE BRIDGE,
BRANCH BROOK PARK

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

funds may prove inadequate for the acquirement and proper development of the entire tract. The amount of money appropriated was fixed upon by improvement societies and interested citizens without any action by this Board, and no very accurate estimate of cost was attempted. If future movements of like character are to be brought to a successful and satisfactory conclusion it would be better policy, in the judgment of this Board, to secure from competent park experts as exact an estimate of cost as is possible before limiting the appropriation to a certain sum. This will enable the people to vote more intelligently in the matter and prevent, in case the law is endorsed, the chance of a failure of the scheme by reason of insufficient funds. The Commission has determined to name this new playground Riverbank Park, and it will be developed as completely as the funds will permit, as a neighborhood park to be used by the children of the vicinity for recreative games and proper exercise.

\$60,000 of the new appropriation was apportioned to the Town of Bloomfield. In response to the urgent request of the governing body of that municipality and many prominent citizens, it was decided to extend Watsessing Park, a portion of which was already in Bloomfield, and this decision was endorsed by the landscape architects of the Commission. The extension carries this park well into the congested section of that municipality and it will be easily accessible from several schools, and from the homes of those citizens who cannot afford to go any great distance for their open air enjoyment. A portion of the property is low and swampy. The Park Commission, however, has found it to be a good rule in park making to secure lands of this character. If left to individual improvement they might lie long neglected or be built upon in so undesirable a manner as to become a disadvantage to the neighborhood and a menace to the health of the community. With



SITE OF BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BRIDGE, BRANCH BROOK PARK



BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BRIDGE, BRANCH
BROOK PARK



BOAT HOUSE,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

proper grading and drainage they enhance rather than detract from surrounding property values, and their selection leaves the better land for improvement by citizens and prevents the removal from the municipal ratables of more valuable property which brings in a greater income in taxes. This plan has been followed with marked success in the cases of Branch Brook, Eastside, Westside and Orange Parks, Weequahic Reservation and the East Orange Parkway, in all of which large swamps existed. In connection with this improvement the Board determined to acquire the land between the present boundary on the south and Dodd Street, East Orange. This gives the park an excellent frontage on one of the principal streets of East Orange on which there is a trolley and renders it readily accessible. It is an acquisition which has long been contemplated, earnestly urged by the East Orange authorities and our landscape advisers, and a most decided benefit to the park itself. The cost of the property was \$14,430. The Mayor and Common Council of East Orange, at the same time, turned over to the Board all the land remaining in its possession which was formerly used for a sewage disposal works. There are 5.4



FIELD HOUSE,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

acres in the tract and the city transferred it for the nominal consideration of \$3,500. The addition in Bloomfield contains about 30 acres and has thus far cost \$30,808.49, with an estimated cost for land of \$13,000 yet to be incurred. The park, therefore, will extend from Dodd Street, East Orange, to a point about one hundred feet northeast of Second Street in Bloomfield, with a total area of 44.6 acres, and will be greatly improved in landscape appearance as well as rendered easier of access to the citizens of two of the most important of our suburban municipalities. Application has been made to the Bloomfield authorities for the closing of the portion of Glenwood Avenue and Carteret Street, which now run through the property.

It should be said here that this Board has been greatly assisted in the acquirement of land in this locality by Messrs. Allison Dodd, Charles R. Underwood and other public spirited citizens who have spent a great deal of time in endeavoring to secure the land for the county at reasonable rates, and who also advanced their own money for the acquirement of property which could be secured more reasonably by individuals than by a public corporation. No improvement has yet been attempted here.

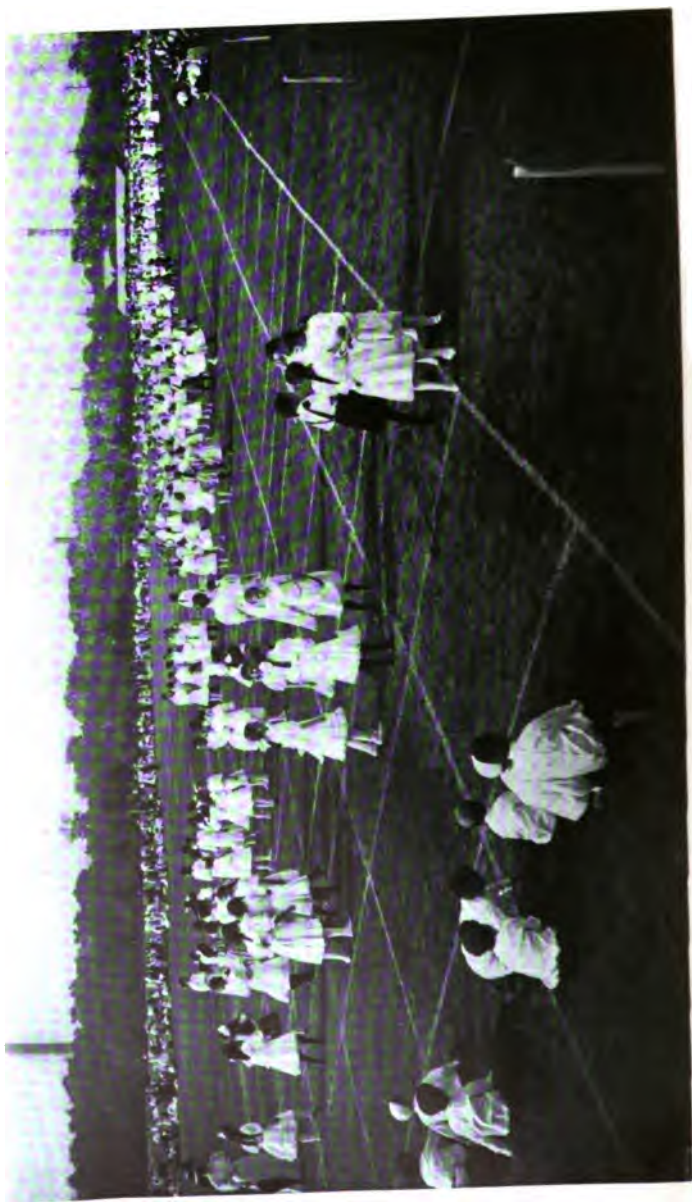
The remaining \$40,000 of this appropriation will be expended in Irvington. The Commission found it extremely difficult to locate a park in this section of the county with the money at its command. Most of the suitable sites were held by those who considered them of great value and were prepared to so contend in the courts. The Board, after the most careful consideration, and after receiving the advice of its landscape architects, decided to locate this park between Grove, Augusta and May Streets and abutting on the south on private property. The area acquired, about 16 acres, is excellently adapted for park purposes. The eastern portion is high and commands a fine view of the sur-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

rounding country as far west as the Orange Mountains, a prospect which will probably never be interfered with. It is in the centre of the town, being only seventeen hundred feet from the corner of Springfield and Clinton Avenues and can be readily adapted to park uses. The western portion, about one-eighth of the whole tract, is swampy and may permit of the construction of a small lake. The Commission has directed that this portion be placed in readiness for skating should there be sufficient cold weather this winter. As the water which floods the ground will be only about eighteen inches in depth it will freeze more readily than the lakes at Branch Brook Park and Weequahic Reservation, and there can



THE RUNNING
TRACK, BRANCH
BROOK PARK



CHILDREN'S FIELD DAY, MIDDLE
DIVISION, BRANCH BROOK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

be no danger of drowning accidents. The property was purchased for \$30,000, which price this Commission was convinced, after a careful investigation and from the reports of real estate experts familiar with values in that vicinity, was a just and fair one. This park has been named Irvington Park.

The inclusion in the system of these new tracts makes a total of ten parks and reservations now under the control of this Board, as follows: Branch Brook Park, Eastside Park, Westside Park, Riverbank Park and Weequahic Reservation, within the corporate limits of the City of Newark; Orange Park, which is almost entirely in the City of Orange, with a small portion in East Orange; Watsessing Park, in East Orange and Bloomfield, Montclair Park in Montclair; South Mountain Reservation in South Orange, Millburn and West Orange, and Eagle Rock Reservation in West Orange, Verona and Montclair. In addition the Commission is charged with the maintenance of the East Orange Parkway, extending from Park Avenue to Central Avenue in East Orange; Park Avenue, extending from Bloomfield Avenue in Newark, through Newark, East Orange, Orange and West Orange to the foot of the Orange Mountains; Prospect Avenue, running from Eagle Rock Reservation to the Northfield Road in West Orange, and Brookside Drive and Cherry Lane, both within the limits of South Mountain Reservation, the former in Millburn Township and the latter in the Town of West Orange.

The Commission has proceeded steadily with the work of improving the older parks in addition to its work in relation to the location of the new acreage mentioned. The playgrounds have continued to be remarkably well patronized, and last season they were conducted under the sole supervision of the Park Commission instead of in conjunction with the Board of Education of the City of Newark as heretofore. The season was extended until November 1st, and the results in attendance and

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



EASTSIDE PARK

character of work were most gratifying. It is interesting to note the large attendance at these recreation centres, and a table is appended to this report, giving it in detail for last season, as compared with the previous year. Indeed, so popular have the playgrounds become that several improvements and additions were undertaken last summer. A hot water heating plant is being placed in the Field House in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park for the accommodation of those who use the field for football.

Plans were also approved for a new Field House at the Sussex Avenue Athletic Field, Branch Brook Park, as the temporary wooden building has already become too small to accommodate the large number of boys and men who use the field. The building will be forty-eight by thirty-one feet and will stand on the location of the present structure. It will contain lavatories, locker rooms, shower baths, rubbing tables and the other accessories usual in an athletic club building, and the

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

accommodation for the boys will be entirely distinct from those for the men. It will be so arranged that it can be used as a public comfort station even when not in use as a locker room. It will be of cement construction, with shingles, and the estimated cost is \$7,900. The contract has not yet been awarded, but it is hoped it may be completed for use next summer.

Two playground buildings have been erected at East-side Park. One building is near the corner of Walnut and Van Buren Streets and is of cement and shingle construction, providing the usual accommodations. The cost was \$1,189. The other building, similar in design and accommodation, is at the southern end of the park, and is for the use of the little children. It has a sand court and a large covered porch to provide shade in sultry weather, and while they are receiving instruction from the teachers in occupation work. Its cost was \$1,896. A similar structure was erected at Westside Park, at a cost of \$2,174, with sand



A PLEASANT
PATH,
MONTCLAIR
PARK



**A FOREST STREAM, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

court and porch. The work of remodeling the field house at this park is also under way. When finished it will conform more nearly to the growing need for athletic conveniences with lockers, showers, toilets, etc. \$2,500 has been set aside for this purpose.

At Watsessing Park the large building formerly used by the City of East Orange in connection with its sewage disposal works was remodeled as a field house in connection with the game fields there. The building is of dark stone trimmed with red brick, built in a low, massive style, and as it has been standing some years and is covered with vines it presents an unusually attractive appearance. The cost of the improvement up to December 31 was \$1,258. There is a balance to be paid on this item estimated at \$600.

The field house at Weequahic Reservation, mentioned on page 18 of the last report, has been completed and was in constant use during last season. Its cost was \$13,385.30. The building is of rough cast cement with shingle roof and contains toilet and athletic accommodations for both boys and girls.

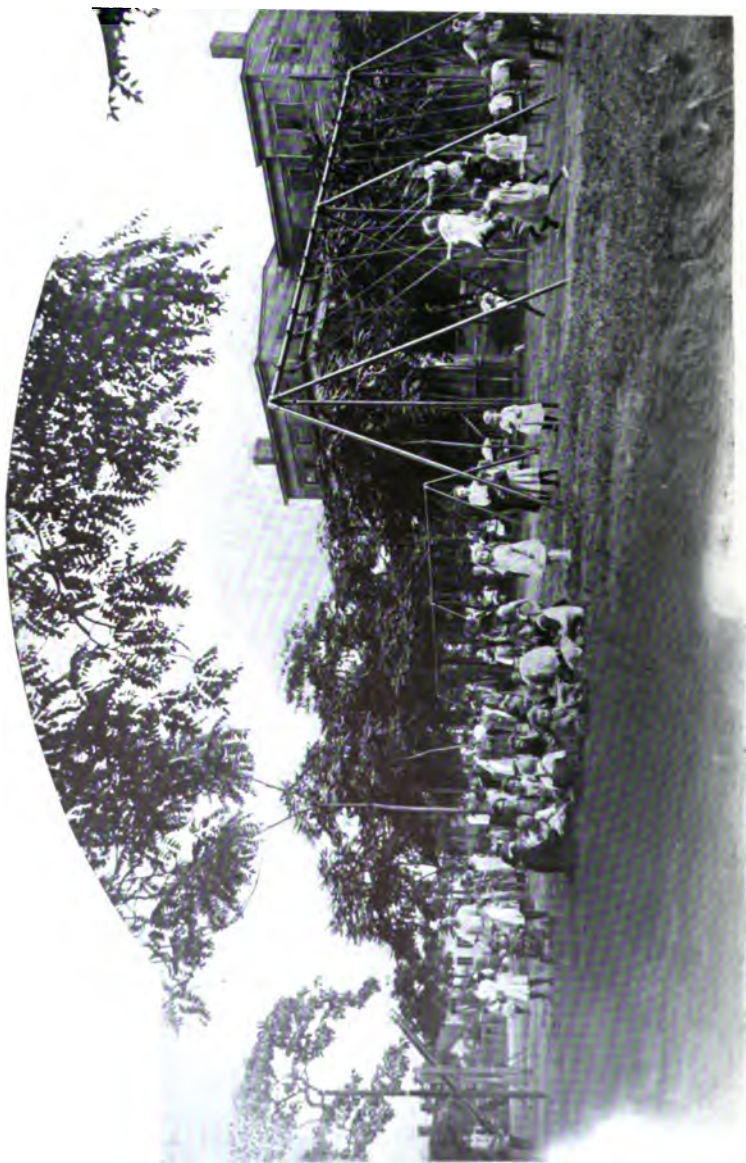
Playground apparatus has been installed at Orange Park in connection with the building now there and already the largely increased attendance at the park has necessitated the consideration of additions to the original structure. These improvements, with those noted in connection with Riverbank Park have provided facilities for games and healthy exercise under proper supervision at four different points in Branch Brook Park; at Eastside Park; at Westside Park and at Riverbank Park and Weequahic Reservation in Newark and at Orange and Watsessing Parks in the suburbs. The Board feels that Essex County is, therefore, well provided with this branch of park enjoyment, and was gratified at being assured by experts who last summer inspected the work that this community is equipped as completely as any other of similar population in the country.



LISTENING TO THE BAND,
BRANCH BROOK PARK

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Other improvements also have added to the attractiveness and usefulness of the system. At Branch Brook Park a new water supply system has been installed for the brook in the Northern Division. The natural supply was too small to properly maintain the stream and the cost of purchasing sufficient water from the City of Newark was not only too great a drain on the maintenance appropriation, but was also merely a temporary expedient, as no contract could be entered into for a long term, on account of the growing needs of the city for all of its own supply. The Board, therefore, retained Mr. Morris R. Sherrerd, Chief Engineer of the City of Newark, to elaborate some plan whereby a proper supply could be secured. Mr. Sherrerd found that the natural overflow from the lakes in the Middle and Southern Divisions into the Millbrook Sewer at Orange Street was sufficient if conserved to make up the needed deficiency and in addition to supply enough water through hydrants to provide for the sprinkling of roads and watering of lawns. This latter use would reduce the maintenance cost, as it would greatly reduce the quantity of water to be purchased from the City of Newark. He accordingly recommended the installation of an electric centrifugal pump at the head of the lake in the Middle Division which should carry the water from the lakes to the source of the brook in the Northern Division, there to be discharged. The water would then pass down the stream to be received again by the pump and again sent to the head of the brook. In this way the only water wasted is that lost by evaporation, or absorbed into the banks of the stream which is inconsiderable. The plan was endorsed by the Commission and carried out under Mr. Sherrerd's supervision, care being taken to lay the necessary pipe so as to avoid injury to the trees and shrubs, and also to provide water hydrants at convenient points. The cost of installation was \$10,778.73.



TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND,
RIVERBANK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The pump was put in operation late last September and worked most satisfactorily until the cold weather rendered further pumping unnecessary for the season. This improvement, it is hoped will make the stream in the Northern Division much more attractive than it has been heretofore. The water will move with more rapidity, will in some places form small water falls, and under the Bloomfield Avenue bridge by special arrangement of the grade pass in a series of small rapids over a stony bed into the lake in the Middle Division.

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During the past summer the work of filling the large

MUSIC GROVE,
ORANGE PARK



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

swamp near the Meeker Avenue entrance at Weequahic Reservation was completed, at a cost of \$8,643.93. A portion of this swamp extended over the right of way of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and that corporation at the request of this Commission, filled in its own land at its own expense. Meeker Avenue, the grading and curbing of which was noted in the last report, page 18, has also been paved by the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark, and now furnishes a most attractive approach to this reservation. The Commission has completed the construction of a macadam roadway from the Meeker Avenue entrance around the lake to the bridge connecting with Elizabeth Avenue. The roadway is eight thousand six hundred feet long and eighteen feet wide. The contract price was \$15,480, including the shaping up of the sides. Gravel walks have also been built at a cost of \$2,001.70 from the Meeker Avenue entrance to the new field house and thence to Frelinghuysen Avenue, a



THISTLE MILL
FORD, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



BRANCH BROOK PARK,
SOUTHERN DIVISION

distance of three thousand eight hundred feet. It is, therefore, now possible for both the driving and walking public to enjoy the beauty of this reservation, at all seasons, without becoming mired in the sticky clay which was formerly such a nuisance in the spring and fall.

Six new training stables for those who use the trotting track have also been erected. The old ones which had decayed past all repair stood on an elevation just south of the track, where their conspicuous position and unsightly character made them a blot upon the landscape. The new ones are along the line of Park Avenue, the eastern boundary of the park where they are much less noticeable. They will be still further hidden by trees and shrubbery. Each stable contains accommodations for twelve horses arranged according to modern sanitary methods and are rented by the Board to the horsemen of the county, bringing in an income of about \$350 per year. Their total cost was \$5,452.34.

Near these stables an administration stable and yard is being constructed, but as it is still incomplete a detailed description of it will be deferred until the next report. Last summer, for the first time, boating and fishing was permitted on the lake in this reservation. The lake is the largest in the park system, containing about eighty-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

five acres, and became popular almost immediately. So great was the demand for boats and canoes that storage accommodations became inadequate before the end of the summer, and a canoe shed had to be provided. It was erected at a cost of \$1,268.87, and provides for the housing of forty-eight canoes. The privileges at this lake were leased for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$806, with \$125 additional for the refreshment privileges at the field house and the trotting track, and \$150 for the use of the canoe shed. The statistics relative to the fishing are of interest and are appended to this report.

A cable has been laid in the lake and arc light poles erected on the shores similar in design to those at Branch Brook Park, in order that the danger incident to boating and skating at night may be reduced to a minimum. The Commission has made every effort to prevent accidents on the water surfaces under its care, and although



A GROUP OF CEDARS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION



**A FOREST STREAM, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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At Watsessing Park the large building formerly used by the City of East Orange in connection with its sewage disposal works was remodeled as a field house in connection with the game fields there. The building is of dark stone trimmed with red brick, built in a low, massive style, and as it has been standing some years and is covered with vines it presents an unusually attractive appearance. The cost of the improvement up to December 31 was \$1,258. There is a balance to be paid on this item estimated at \$600.

The field house at Weequahic Reservation, mentioned on page 18 of the last report, has been completed and was in constant use during last season. Its cost was \$13,385.30. The building is of rough cast cement with shingle roof and contains toilet and athletic accommodations for both boys and girls.

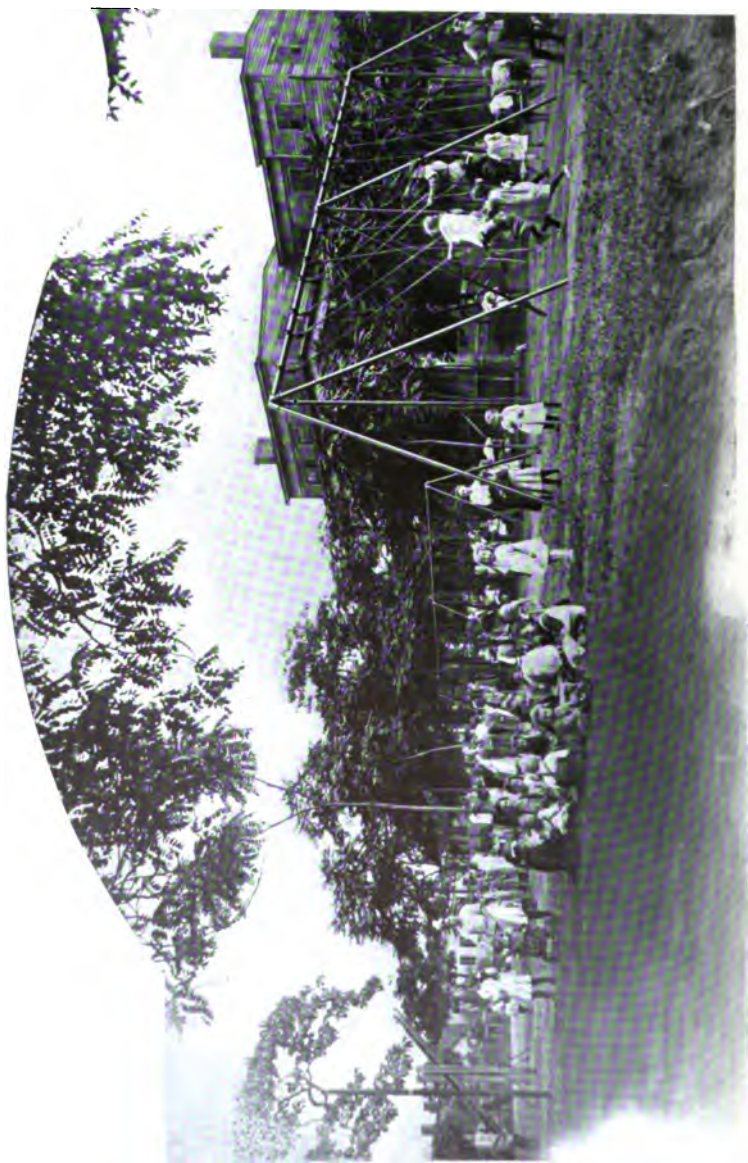
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LISTENING TO THE BAND,
BRANCH BROOK PARK

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Other improvements also have added to the attractiveness and usefulness of the system. At Branch Brook Park a new water supply system has been installed for the brook in the Northern Division. The natural supply was too small to properly maintain the stream and the cost of purchasing sufficient water from the City of Newark was not only too great a drain on the maintenance appropriation, but was also merely a temporary expedient, as no contract could be entered into for a long term, on account of the growing needs of the city for all of its own supply. The Board, therefore, retained Mr. Morris R. Sherrerd, Chief Engineer of the City of Newark, to elaborate some plan whereby a proper supply could be secured. Mr. Sherrerd found that the natural overflow from the lakes in the Middle and Southern Divisions into the Millbrook Sewer at Orange Street was sufficient if conserved to make up the needed deficiency and in addition to supply enough water through hydrants to provide for the sprinkling of roads and watering of lawns. This latter use would reduce the maintenance cost, as it would greatly reduce the quantity of water to be purchased from the City of Newark. He accordingly recommended the installation of an electric centrifugal pump at the head of the lake in the Middle Division which should carry the water from the lakes to the source of the brook in the Northern Division, there to be discharged. The water would then pass down the stream to be received again by the pump and again sent to the head of the brook. In this way the only water wasted is that lost by evaporation, or absorbed into the banks of the stream which is inconsiderable. The plan was endorsed by the Commission and carried out under Mr. Sherrerd's supervision, care being taken to lay the necessary pipe so as to avoid injury to the trees and shrubs, and also to provide water hydrants at convenient points. The cost of installation was \$10,778.73.



TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND,
RIVERBANK PARK

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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THISTLE MILL
FORD, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



EASTSIDE PARK

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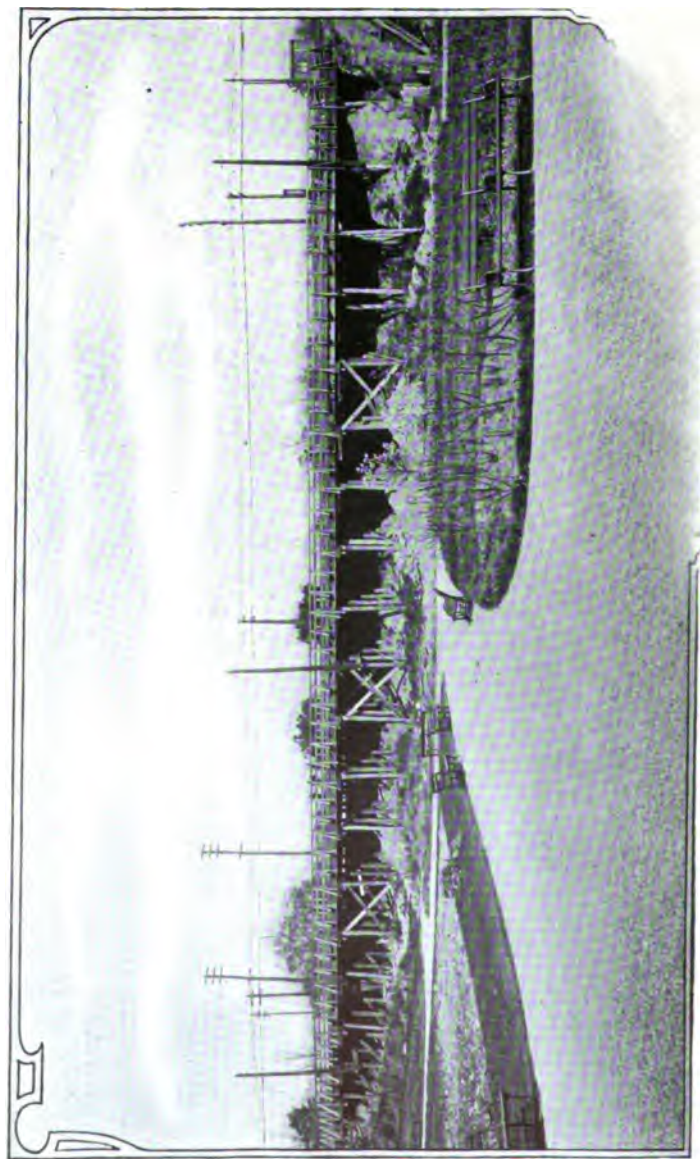
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PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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SITE OF BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BRIDGE, BRANCH BROOK PARK



BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BRIDGE, BRANCH
BROOK PARK



BOAT HOUSE,
WERQUAHIC RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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FIELD HOUSE,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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It should be said here that this Board has been greatly assisted in the acquirement of land in this locality by Messrs. Allison Dodd, Charles R. Underwood and other public spirited citizens who have spent a great deal of time in endeavoring to secure the land for the county at reasonable rates, and who also advanced their own money for the acquirement of property which could be secured more reasonably by individuals than by a public corporation. No improvement has yet been attempted here.

The remaining \$40,000 of this appropriation will be expended in Irvington. The Commission found it extremely difficult to locate a park in this section of the county with the money at its command. Most of the suitable sites were held by those who considered them of great value and were prepared to so contend in the courts. The Board, after the most careful consideration, and after receiving the advice of its landscape architects, decided to locate this park between Grove, Augusta and May Streets and abutting on the south on private property. The area acquired, about 16 acres, is excellently adapted for park purposes. The eastern portion is high and commands a fine view of the sur-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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THE RUNNING
RACK, BRANCH
ROOK PARK



CHILDREN'S FIELD DAY, MIDDLE
DIVISION, BRANCH BROOK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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The inclusion in the system of these new tracts makes a total of ten parks and reservations now under the control of this Board, as follows: Branch Brook Park, Eastside Park, Westside Park, Riverbank Park and Weequahic Reservation, within the corporate limits of the City of Newark; Orange Park, which is almost entirely in the City of Orange, with a small portion in East Orange; Watsessing Park, in East Orange and Bloomfield, Montclair Park in Montclair; South Mountain Reservation in South Orange, Millburn and West Orange, and Eagle Rock Reservation in West Orange, Verona and Montclair. In addition the Commission is charged with the maintenance of the East Orange Parkway, extending from Park Avenue to Central Avenue in East Orange; Park Avenue, extending from Bloomfield Avenue in Newark, through Newark, East Orange, Orange and West Orange to the foot of the Orange Mountains; Prospect Avenue, running from Eagle Rock Reservation to the Northfield Road in West Orange, and Brookside Drive and Cherry Lane, both within the limits of South Mountain Reservation, the former in Millburn Township and the latter in the Town of West Orange.

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EASTSIDE PARK

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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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**A FOREST STREAM, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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BOAT HOUSE,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION

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EASTSIDE PARK

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A PLEASANT
PATH,
MONTCLAIR
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A FOREST STREAM, SOUTH
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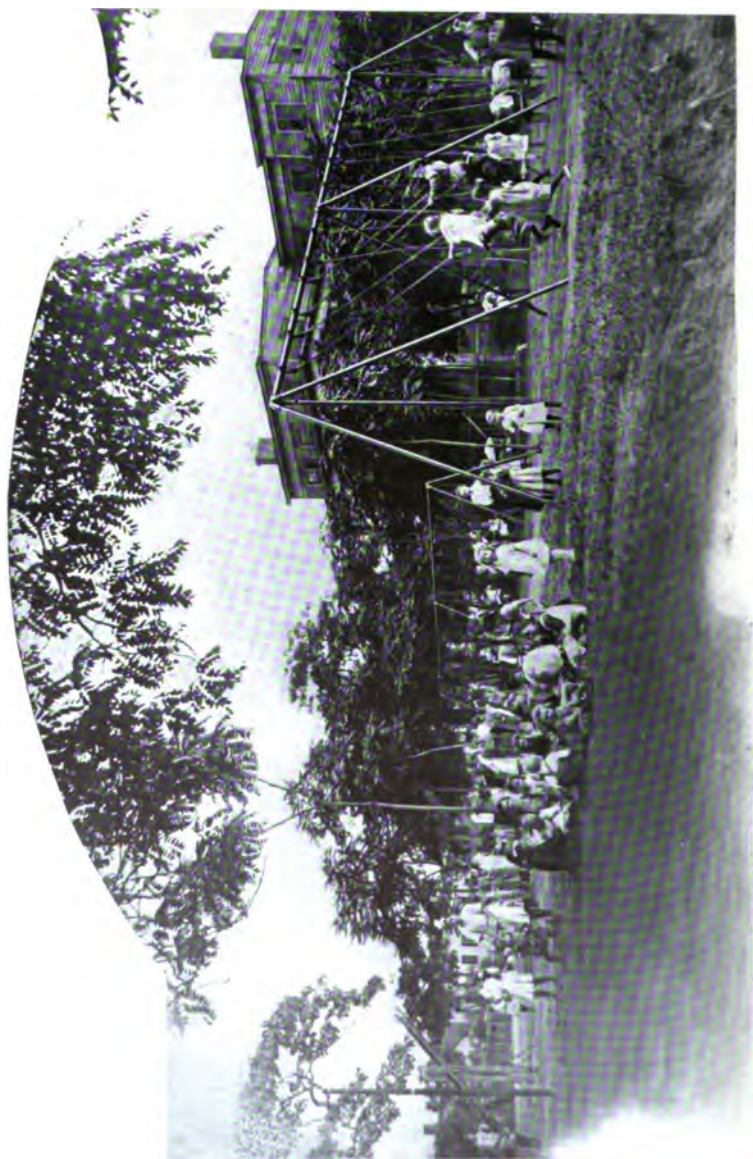
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BRANCH BROOK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Other improvements also have added to the attractiveness and usefulness of the system. At Branch Brook Park a new water supply system has been installed for the brook in the Northern Division. The natural supply was too small to properly maintain the stream and the cost of purchasing sufficient water from the City of Newark was not only too great a drain on the maintenance appropriation, but was also merely a temporary expedient, as no contract could be entered into for a long term, on account of the growing needs of the city for all of its own supply. The Board, therefore, retained Mr. Morris R. Sherrerd, Chief Engineer of the City of Newark, to elaborate some plan whereby a proper supply could be secured. Mr. Sherrerd found that the natural overflow from the lakes in the Middle and Southern Divisions into the Millbrook Sewer at Orange Street was sufficient if conserved to make up the needed deficiency and in addition to supply enough water through hydrants to provide for the sprinkling of roads and watering of lawns. This latter use would reduce the maintenance cost, as it would greatly reduce the quantity of water to be purchased from the City of Newark. He accordingly recommended the installation of an electric centrifugal pump at the head of the lake in the Middle Division which should carry the water from the lakes to the source of the brook in the Northern Division, there to be discharged. The water would then pass down the stream to be received again by the pump and again sent to the head of the brook. In this way the only water wasted is that lost by evaporation, or absorbed into the banks of the stream which is inconsiderable. The plan was endorsed by the Commission and carried out under Mr. Sherrerd's supervision, care being taken to lay the necessary pipe so as to avoid injury to the trees and shrubs, and also to provide water hydrants at convenient points. The cost of installation was \$10,778.73.



TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND,
RIVERBANK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The pump was put in operation late last September and worked most satisfactorily until the cold weather rendered further pumping unnecessary for the season. This improvement, it is hoped will make the stream in the Northern Division much more attractive than it has been heretofore. The water will move with more rapidity, will in some places form small water falls, and under the Bloomfield Avenue bridge by special arrangement of the grade pass in a series of small rapids over a stony bed into the lake in the Middle Division.

A concrete sidewalk six feet wide has been laid in this park along Park Avenue between Lake Street and the Morris Canal, also on Lake Street from Bloomfield Avenue to Second Avenue.

Through the courtesy of the Public Service Corporation the unsightly electric light poles which disfigured Park Avenue where it crosses the park have been done away with and the wires have been placed in conduits under ground. The Board has laid a cable in the Middle Division Lake and ten arc light poles have been erected along the shores in order that the lake may be properly lighted during the boating and skating seasons. The cost was \$1,262.94. The lights on the new Park Avenue bridge were regularly lighted at night for the first time last season.

A reinforced concrete arch foot bridge over the lake at Westside Park has been completed to take the place of the temporary wooden one which had worn out. It is fifty-two feet long and fifteen and one-half feet wide, with a seventeen-foot span. It cost \$2,000.

At Orange Park a sidewalk has been laid along the Harrison Street boundary. Owing to the projecting roots of the elm trees a tar macadam pavement was decided upon, as a cement or stone treatment would, it was feared, injure the trees. The cost was \$293, or 6.5 cents a square foot.

During the past summer the work of filling the large



MUSIC GROVE,
ORANGE PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

swamp near the Meeker Avenue entrance at Weequahic Reservation was completed, at a cost of \$8,643.93. A portion of this swamp extended over the right of way of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and that corporation at the request of this Commission, filled in its own land at its own expense. Meeker Avenue, the grading and curbing of which was noted in the last report, page 18, has also been paved by the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark, and now furnishes a most attractive approach to this reservation. The Commission has completed the construction of a macadam roadway from the Meeker Avenue entrance around the lake to the bridge connecting with Elizabeth Avenue. The roadway is eight thousand six hundred feet long and eighteen feet wide. The contract price was \$15,480, including the shaping up of the sides. Gravel walks have also been built at a cost of \$2,001.70 from the Meeker Avenue entrance to the new field house and thence to Frelinghuysen Avenue, a



CASTLE MILL
RD. SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



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Six new training stables for those who use the trotting track have also been erected. The old ones which had decayed past all repair stood on an elevation just south of the track, where their conspicuous position and unsightly character made them a blot upon the landscape. The new ones are along the line of Park Avenue, the eastern boundary of the park where they are much less noticeable. They will be still further hidden by trees and shrubbery. Each stable contains accommodations for twelve horses arranged according to modern sanitary methods and are rented by the Board to the horsemen of the county, bringing in an income of about \$350 per year. Their total cost was \$5,452.34.

Near these stables an administration stable and yard is being constructed, but as it is still incomplete a detailed description of it will be deferred until the next report. Last summer, for the first time, boating and fishing was permitted on the lake in this reservation. The lake is the largest in the park system, containing about eighty-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

five acres, and became popular almost immediately. So great was the demand for boats and canoes that storage accommodations became inadequate before the end of the summer, and a canoe shed had to be provided. It was erected at a cost of \$1,268.87, and provides for the housing of forty-eight canoes. The privileges at this lake were leased for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$806, with \$125 additional for the refreshment privileges at the field house and the trotting track, and \$150 for the use of the canoe shed. The statistics relative to the fishing are of interest and are appended to this report.

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A GROUP OF CEDARS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION



A FOREST STREAM, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

court and porch. The work of remodeling the field house at this park is also under way. When finished it will conform more nearly to the growing need for athletic conveniences with lockers, showers, toilets, etc. \$2,500 has been set aside for this purpose.

At Watsessing Park the large building formerly used by the City of East Orange in connection with its sewage disposal works was remodeled as a field house in connection with the game fields there. The building is of dark stone trimmed with red brick, built in a low, massive style, and as it has been standing some years and is covered with vines it presents an unusually attractive appearance. The cost of the improvement up to December 31 was \$1,258. There is a balance to be paid on this item estimated at \$600.

The field house at Weequahic Reservation, mentioned on page 18 of the last report, has been completed and was in constant use during last season. Its cost was \$13,385.30. The building is of rough cast cement with shingle roof and contains toilet and athletic accommodations for both boys and girls.

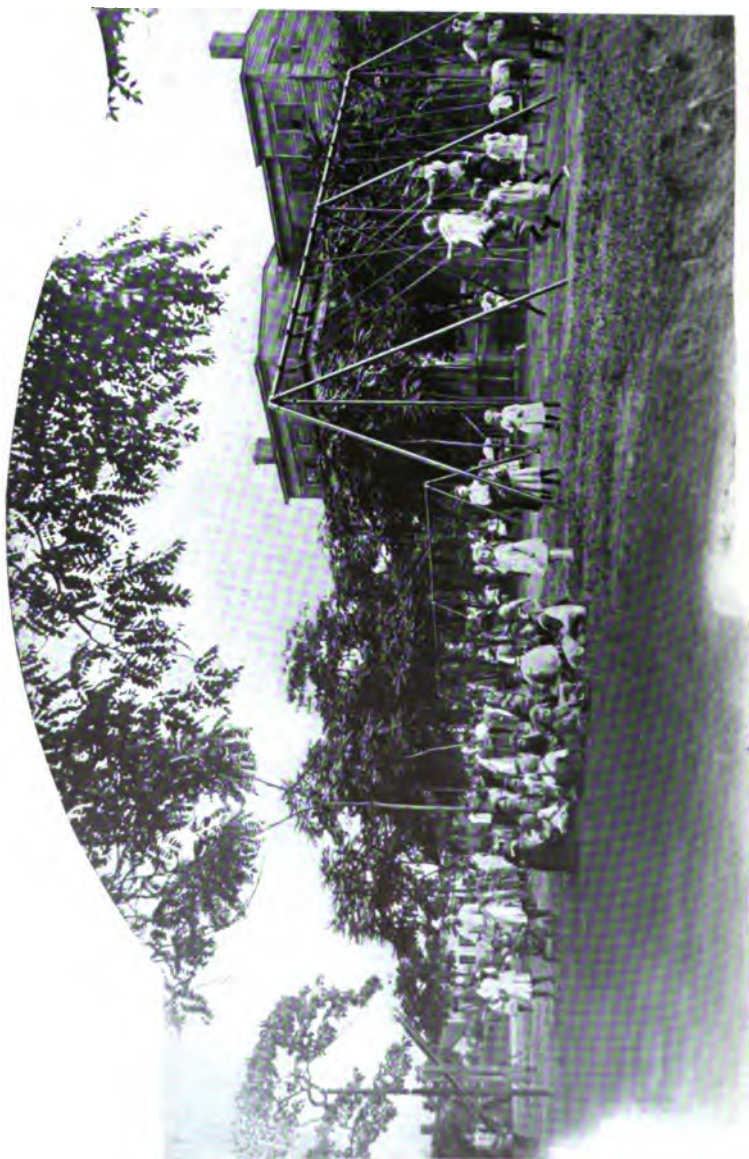
Playground apparatus has been installed at Orange Park in connection with the building now there and already the largely increased attendance at the park has necessitated the consideration of additions to the original structure. These improvements, with those noted in connection with Riverbank Park have provided facilities for games and healthy exercise under proper supervision at four different points in Branch Brook Park; at Eastside Park; at Westside Park and at Riverbank Park and Weequahic Reservation in Newark and at Orange and Watsessing Parks in the suburbs. The Board feels that Essex County is, therefore, well provided with this branch of park enjoyment, and was gratified at being assured by experts who last summer inspected the work that this community is equipped as completely as any other of similar population in the country.



LISTENING TO THE BAND,
BRANCH BROOK PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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MUSIC GROVE,
ORANGE PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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THE MILL
D. SOUTH
STAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



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PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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A GROUP OF CEDARS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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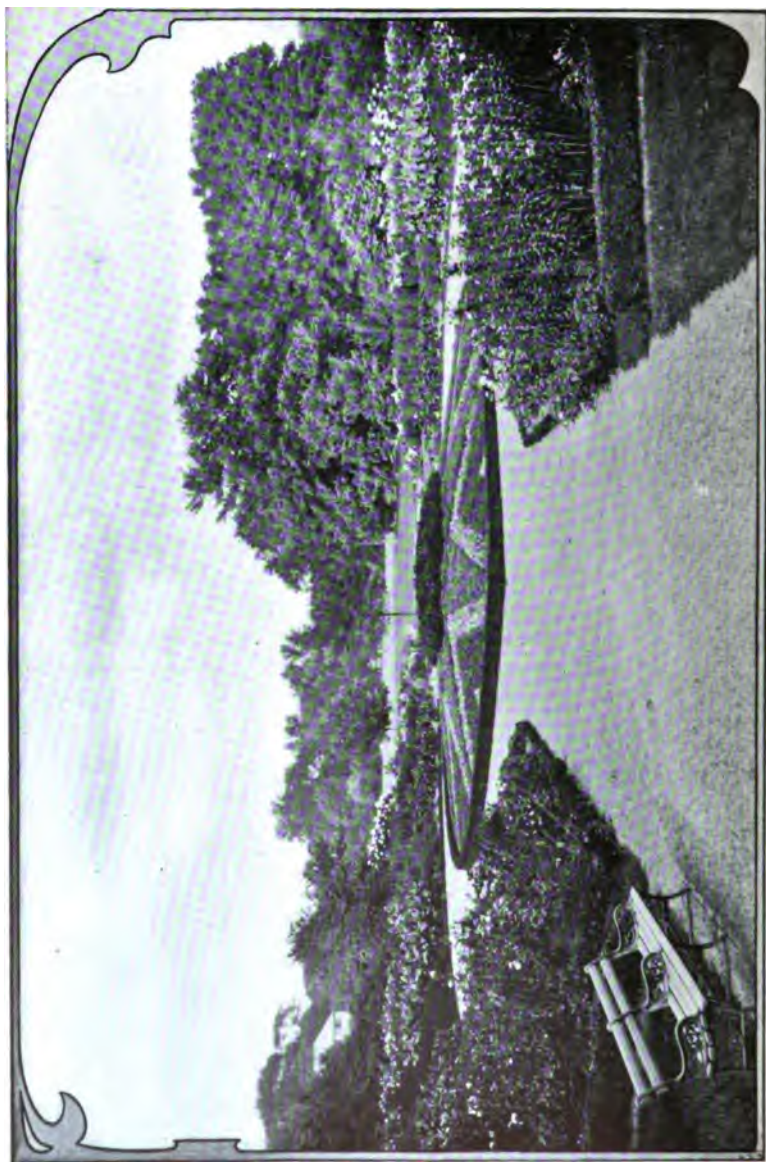


WOOD ROAD, EAGLE
ROCK RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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The most important work completed at Eagle Rock Reservation during the past season was the construction of a concrete retaining wall four hundred and fifty feet long along the outer edge of the cliff. The old dry stone wall had crumbled so as to be unsafe and had to be removed. The new wall is surmounted by iron pickets and is calculated to prevent accidents. The cost was \$5,297.97. Repairs have also been made to The Eyrie at this Reservation. This curious old house was at one



FLOWER GARDEN,
ORANGE PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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BLACK ROCK FALLS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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"The forestry work at Eagle Rock Reservation has been completed, and that at South Mountain is proceeding under the direction of Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, and supervised by an educated forester. There is always a great deal of misapprehension in regard to wood cutting in public reservations, and many suppose that the best way to develop trees is to leave them to themselves. There could be no greater mistake. With few exceptions the original woodland has been cut over many times, and hardly a vestige of the primeval forest remains. After the visit of the woodchopper the more rapidly growing trees and those that can most readily withstand forest fires crowd out their slowly maturing comrades. Hence it is that the oaks and the chestnuts largely predominate in a neglected wood. Fully half of these trees are sucker growths, that is, offshoots from the stumps of old trees, and are very short lived, lasting only from thirty to forty years and never attaining a very large size. The province of the forester is to restore the trees to the condition in which they were before the advent of the woodchopper. In the first place, thinning must be



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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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WHEEL MILL
BRIDGE, SOUTH
WEQUAHIC RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T



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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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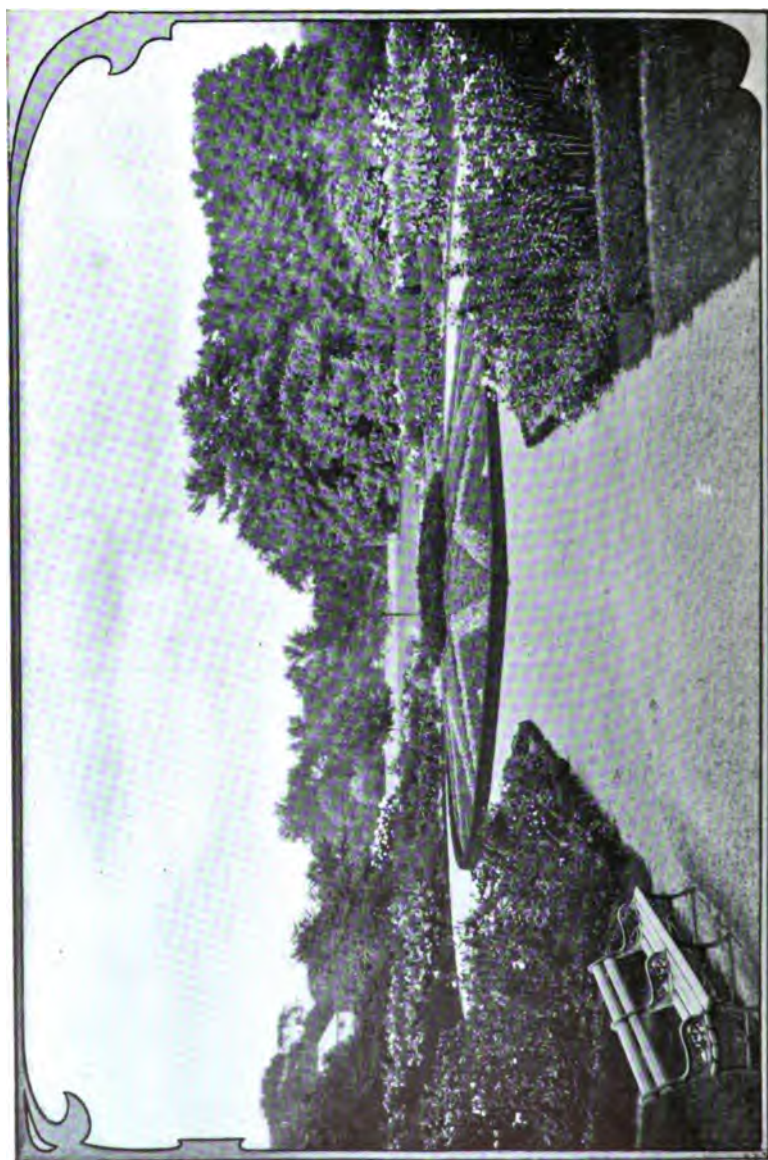


WOOD ROAD, EAGLE
ROCK RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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LE MILL
SOUTH
TAIN RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T



BRANCH BROOK PARK,
SOUTHERN DIVISION

distance of three thousand eight hundred feet. It is, therefore, now possible for both the driving and walking public to enjoy the beauty of this reservation, at all seasons, without becoming mired in the sticky clay which was formerly such a nuisance in the spring and fall.

Six new training stables for those who use the trotting track have also been erected. The old ones which had decayed past all repair stood on an elevation just south of the track, where their conspicuous position and unsightly character made them a blot upon the landscape. The new ones are along the line of Park Avenue, the eastern boundary of the park where they are much less noticeable. They will be still further hidden by trees and shrubbery. Each stable contains accommodations for twelve horses arranged according to modern sanitary methods and are rented by the Board to the horsemen of the county, bringing in an income of about \$350 per year. Their total cost was \$5,452.34.

Near these stables an administration stable and yard is being constructed, but as it is still incomplete a detailed description of it will be deferred until the next report. Last summer, for the first time, boating and fishing was permitted on the lake in this reservation. The lake is the largest in the park system, containing about eighty-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

five acres, and became popular almost immediately. So great was the demand for boats and canoes that storage accommodations became inadequate before the end of the summer, and a canoe shed had to be provided. It was erected at a cost of \$1,268.87, and provides for the housing of forty-eight canoes. The privileges at this lake were leased for a term of five years at an annual rental of \$806, with \$125 additional for the refreshment privileges at the field house and the trotting track, and \$150 for the use of the canoe shed. The statistics relative to the fishing are of interest and are appended to this report.

A cable has been laid in the lake and arc light poles erected on the shores similar in design to those at Branch Brook Park, in order that the danger incident to boating and skating at night may be reduced to a minimum. The Commission has made every effort to prevent accidents on the water surfaces under its care, and although



A GROUP OF CEDARS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

an increase in the park police force was necessary to do so, it has detailed two officers at Branch Brook Park and two at Weequahic Reservation to constantly patrol the lakes in boats. Any additional expense in this direction which will result in the saving of human life is, in the opinion of the Board, amply justified. These men are expert swimmers and are required to familiarize themselves with the best methods of resuscitating drowning persons. In order to encourage the police to greater proficiency the Board has instituted an annual swimming contest to be participated in by all the park police, all of whom whether stationed near bodies of water or not are required before appointment to give practical evidence of their efficiency in this accomplishment. Prizes are offered for different aquatic events, among which is diving and bringing to the surface a lay figure the size and weight of a man. The winner of this event in last year's contest jumped into the water at a distance of one hundred feet from the point where the



**WOOD ROAD, EAGLE
ROCK RESERVATION**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ly figure had been placed, swam to the spot, dived to a depth of fifteen feet and brought the figure to the surface and to a relief boat in fifty-nine seconds, time taken by a stop watch. In addition to these precautions life preservers are placed at intervals along the shores of the lakes, and boats fastened along the banks to be used in case of emergency. It is gratifying to note that only one fatality occurred last summer. That was at Weequahic Reservation, and in that case the young man who was drowned fainted and fell from his canoe into the water, overturning it and throwing his companion, a young woman, out also. The young woman was saved, but unfortunately, the young man's body was not found for some time, although the officers repeatedly dived for it and swam about on the bottom of the lake. In connection with this lake the Board wishes to acknowledge the gift by Commissioner P. Sanford Ross of a flock of six geese which he sent there from his summer home in Elberon last fall. They are of the English variety, unusually fine specimens, pure white in color and make a most attractive appearance in the water. This gift has suggested to the Commission the placing in this lake of a few swans, but no action has as yet been taken. Weequahic Lake is admirably adapted for water fowl, as the banks are not heavily planted with shrubs which geese and swans would seriously damage in a sheet of water the size and character of Branch Brook Lake.

The most important work completed at Eagle Rock Reservation during the past season was the construction of a concrete retaining wall four hundred and fifty feet long along the outer edge of the cliff. The old dry stone wall had crumbled so as to be unsafe and had to be removed. The new wall is surmounted by iron pickets and is calculated to prevent accidents. The cost was \$5,297.97. Repairs have also been made to The Eyrie at this Reservation. This curious old house was at one



FLOWER GARDEN,
ORANGE PARK

ARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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BLACK ROCK FALLS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESERVATION

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

be found grazing in the open fields. It is the intention of the Commission to add to this herd. The cost of the eight deer was \$485. The acquisition of this game made it necessary to strictly enforce the ordinance of the Board that no dogs shall be suffered to run at large in the reservation. The rigid enforcement of the regulations has not only protected the imported game, but has given the native birds and animals a chance, and they have noticeably multiplied, especially the rabbits and gray squirrels. The Commission also takes pleasure in recording the fact that there has been a large increase in the development of the flora in this reservation. In order that the people may fully understand the forestry work now going on, the following explanation, taken from the report of 1903, page 17, is included in this report:

"The forestry work at Eagle Rock Reservation has been completed, and that at South Mountain is proceeding under the direction of Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, and supervised by an educated forester. There is always a great deal of misapprehension in regard to wood cutting in public reservations, and many suppose that the best way to develop trees is to leave them to themselves. There could be no greater mistake. With few exceptions the original woodland has been cut over many times, and hardly a vestige of the primeval forest remains. After the visit of the woodchopper the more rapidly growing trees and those that can most readily withstand forest fires crowd out their slowly maturing comrades. Hence it is that the oaks and the chestnuts largely predominate in a neglected wood. Fully half of these trees are sucker growths, that is, offshoots from the stumps of old trees, and are very short lived, lasting only from thirty to forty years and never attaining a very large size. The province of the forester is to restore the trees to the condition in which they were before the advent of the woodchopper. In the first place, thinning must be



A SHADY POOL, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

done that the trees may not become tall and spindling, but may round out into their natural forms. Sucker growths are always cut where possible and the seedling trees preserved. The next step is to diversify the forest, to reintroduce the more delicate and slow growing trees and destroy that sense of sameness which comes from long vistas of one variety of tree.

For example, the beech, one of the most beautiful of forest trees was comparatively rare in the reservations, and the pines and hemlocks had been practically exterminated. Wherever these trees were found they were developed, the more ordinary trees which crowded about them were removed and they were given a chance to grow and multiply. A tree needs air and light just as a man does. If they are allowed to grow too closely together and the underbrush is not cut away, many of them will die, and those that remain will be tall and thin, lacking entirely their natural beauty. A tree needs food also. There is not enough nourishment in an acre of ordinary land to support all the trees that would grow upon it. Thus it is that the wisdom of the forester must be called in to curb somewhat the wantonness of Nature and to protect and develop the real forest. Trees must be cut, but the fittest must be saved. In deciding the question of fitness, the seedling is given the preference of the sucker, and the rarer, before the ordinary varieties. The condition of the individual tree, however, often enters into





RESIDE THE STILL WATERS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

the decision, as for example, a beech which has been badly burned by a forest fire, may be taken down to make room for a healthy chestnut. Before beginning the work of tree thinning the Commission had prepared a map of the twenty-five hundred acres in South Mountain Reservation on which the trees are indicated, with their variety and condition. The experts studied this map and concluded what trees it would be necessary to destroy. After confirming their conclusions by a personal inspection the condemned trees were each tagged with a piece of red flannel and cut out by gangs of workmen, under the direction of the forester. The result of intelligent forestry is apparent in a short time. The trees round out into more stately form, and the finer specimens are brought into greater prominence. The removal of the underbrush lessens the danger from forest fires—the worst enemy of trees—and allows the ferns and wild flowers to carpet the ground and add to the beauty of the sylvan scenery. There are some trees of great beauty in the reservation, and the Board is particularly proud of a very fine group of cedars in South Mountain Reservation on Brookside Drive. The greatest enemy the reservations have, aside from the forest fire, is the vandal; the man who is unable to enjoy a beautiful dogwood bloom without tearing it down, or to admire a mountain laurel without uprooting it. The Park Commission has used every means in its power to impress upon the public that there are not enough trees and shrubs in the Reservations to give of their flowers and branches to every citizen who visits them. Special guards are detailed in December to prevent all the evergreens that have escaped the wood-chopper from being turned into Christmas trees. In the spring the dogwood has to be especially protected, and in the fall the chestnut, the elder berry and the sumach have to be guarded. Circulars have been printed and handed to all visitors, signs have been erected

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

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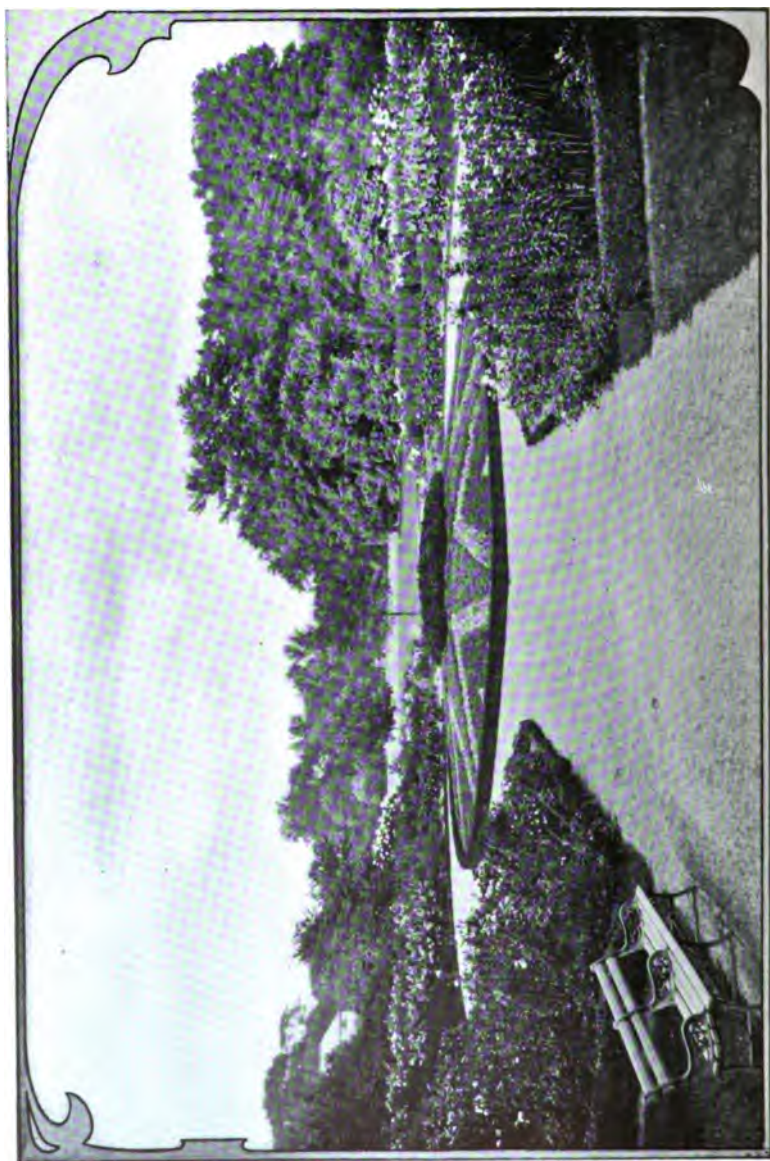


WOOD ROAD, EAGLE
ROCK RESERVATION

ARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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ORANOR PARK

ARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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BLACK ROCK FALLS,
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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A SHADY POOL, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

ARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

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TABLE ROCK, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

appealing to the people, and arrests have been made. Announcements have been read each spring in every public school in the county and the public press has done all in its power to condemn the evil. The nuisance cannot be entirely stopped, however, until a public sentiment is aroused that will make it impossible."

The results of this wise system of forestry and careful protection of the trees and flowers are now beginning to manifest themselves. The display of dogwood last spring was larger and more luxuriant than ever before and the laurel has increased to a very noticeable degree. During the past year the Board set out two hundred young hemlock trees in the reservation at a cost of 386.51 and appropriated \$500 for the purchase of rhododendrons, once a native of these mountains but now totally exterminated by the vandal. About five thousand young oaks from the Commission's own nursery have likewise been set out. Essex County is fast becoming an urban community and the time is not far distant when there will be few tracts of large area preserved in their native state. It is in order that these reservations may retain that charm that these rules are made and it is for the benefit of the public that they are enforced.

Last fall the Commission began the work of changing the alignment of Brookside Drive, with the consent of the authorities of Millburn. The object is to do away with a dangerous curve in the road and a steep hill. The improvement will be completed in the spring and the grade of the roadway will be reduced from twelve to six per cent.

The Board has also undertaken to fill and drain all mosquito-breeding places within this reservation, and the work is being rigorously pushed according to suggestions received from an expert in these matters.

The increased use of the park system by the public during the past year has abundantly justified the im-



A WOODLAND DRIVE, SOUTH
MOUNTAIN RESERVATION



BOYS' PLAYGROUND,
EAST-SIDE PARK

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

CONSTRUCTION.

1907.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1907.....		\$441,230.89
Received from Interest.....	\$8,577.66	
Miscellaneous	1,666.80	10,244.46
		<u>\$451,475.35</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Riverbank Park.....	\$66,069.51	
Watsessing Park.....	45,238.49	
Irvington Park.....	30,000.00	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	14,482.40	
South Mountain Reservation..	855.35	
Parkways.....	1,786.09	\$158,431.84

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$28,782.58	
Eastside Park.....	1,618.25	
Westside Park.....	2,699.46	
Orange Park.....	869.18	
Watsessing Park.....	1,407.41	
Montclair Park.....	267.11	
Riverbank Park.....	862.76	
Irvington Park.....	29.75	
Weequahic Reservation.....	37,059.28	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	7,180.43	
South Mountain Reservation..	9,516.17	
East Orange Parkway.....	548.37	
Park Avenue.....	240.24	\$91,080.99

ITEMS.

Grading	\$ 973.00
Paving and Sewerage..	31,628.24
Trees and Plants.....	839.91
Labor	19,977.28
Tools and Implements	2,460.53
Gardening, Materials..	70.06
Buildings and Bridges	28,315.11
Fences and Fountains	5,492.16
Miscellaneous.....	1,324.70

\$91,080.99

OFFICE.

Legal.....	\$2,503.47	
Architects and Engineers....	6,594.56	\$9,098.03

Cash on hand December 31st, 1907.....		\$258,610.86
		<u>192,864.49</u>
		\$451,475.35

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.



TROTting TRACK,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION



LITTLE FOLKS' LAWN.
BRANCH BROOK PARK

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

Branch Brook Park.....	23,888	796	40,575	1,623
Eastside Park.....	17,677	588	33,375	1,335
Westside Park.....	10,890	375	33,000	1,320
Orange Park.....	2,728	113	2,825	113
Watsessing Park.....	2,775	102	4,175	167
Riverbank Park.....			16,500	660
	57,958	1,974	130,450	5,218

MONTH OF OCTOBER.

Branch Brook Park.....	3,321	127	8,760	365
Eastside Park.....	4,442	159	5,568	232
Westside Park.....	3,403	130	7,680	320
Orange Park.....	560	40	1,464	61
Watsessing Park.....	1,670	55	1,800	75
Riverbank Park.....			4,025	161
	13,396	511	29,297	1,214

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1906	1907	1906	1907
Branch Brook Park—				
Middle Division.....	5,625	6,204	1,530	1,780
Northern Division.....	4,275	4,941	840	1,120
Watsessing Park.....	900	1,461		726
Weequahic Reservation.....	975	1,908		1,381
	11,775	14,514	2,370	5,007

	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1906	1907	1906	1907
Branch Brook Park.....	3,594	3,661	1,175	1,142
Eastside Park.....	435	516	.....	.....
Westside Park.....	660	1,037	.....	.....
Orange Park.....	621	1,122	.....	.....
Montclair Park.....	.....	.....	.....	790
Weequahic Reservation.....	321	1,389	.....	.....
	5,631	7,725	1,175	1,932



BOAT HOUSE,
BRANCH BROOK PARK



WEEQUAHIC LAKE.
BEFORE IMPROVEMENT

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RICHARD F. STEVENS,
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TROTting TRACK,
WEEQUAHIC RESERVATION



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BRANCH BROOK PARK

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BOAT HOUSE,
BRANCH BROOK PARK



WEEQUAHIC LAKE,
BEFORE IMPROVEMENT



SAND COURT AND SHELTER,
WESTSIDE PARK

of the citizens of future times. Its popularity, however, was immediate and remarkable, and the statistics of use and attendance show that it is patronized to almost as large an extent as Branch Brook Park which is the central unit of the park system. The dredging of the old swamp of about 80 acres which lay within its limits and the creation out of it of a beautiful lake—the largest in the county—attracted thousands of people who delight in boating, fishing and canoeing. The game fields were crowded to such an extent that their area had to be enlarged, and the matinees of the Road Horse Association filled the reservation on every pleasant summer Saturday. In a word it was found that the people were quicker to appreciate Weequahic's beauties than was at first supposed, and by their constant use of it had transformed it into a park for the use and enjoyment of the present as well as the future, so that now it is a reservation only in name. The Legislature of 1907 passed an act permitting the county to expend \$200,000 for the enlargement of its boundaries by extending the taking line on the west to Elizabeth Avenue. Although the Commission took no part in urging the passage of the bill the rapidly increasing use of the reservation and the obvious advantage to it of the added territory seemed ample justification for exercising the authority given by the statute. In the first place it enables the Board to carry the park territory to a boundary street. This is always of importance in park making. It prevents the unfortunate possibility of unsightly out buildings and the rears of houses forming the horizon of the park, as can happen when private property intervenes between the park and a public thoroughfare. The need in this case of such an extension was particularly pressing, as the land taken rises from the old park boundary quite abruptly to a considerable elevation. This would have

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

side of the Reservation. For the most part it is of tar macadam so built as not to kill or injure the fine old elms which line the street, although immediately adjoining the entrance for a distance of about 400 feet it is of flag. The cost was \$1,016.83.

The only building erected during the past year in this reservation is the Administration Building, the construction of which was mentioned in the last report page 32. The building is located on the line of Dayton Street near the southerly line of the race track. It is of frame construction with cedar shingles and is thoroughly modern and sanitary in all its details. The main building containing the horse stable, wash room, police headquarters, toilet, etc. is 66 feet long by 28 feet wide and contains accommodations for eight horses. In the upper story is storage room for hay and feed. Connected with the stable in the shape of an "L" are the shops, tool rooms and closed sheds. The total cost of the building was \$9,033.34.

In addition to the English geese presented two years ago Commissioner P. Sanford Ross, last spring, gave the county six ducks, two Mallards and four Broad Bills, which at the end of the season had increased to twenty-five. The Board also purchased four swans. Visitors are not permitted to feed or molest these water fowl, and they have grown very tame, and make an attractive showing in the water, often coming close to shore at some point where they see people standing, or following boats and canoes about the lake.

The matinees of the Road Horse Association were held at this reservation during the past season and as usual attracted large crowds. The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club also held weekly meets at a float erected for them by the Board. The canoe club whose members use the lake on almost every pleasant summer

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that the appropriation available for this purpose is not sufficient to fully develop the park, and the work will consist merely of grading, draining and making the land available for game fields and athletic purposes. This is also true in regard to Irvington Park. The improvement here was begun last fall, but the Board has only \$10,000 at its disposal for this purpose, which is entirely inadequate to properly park this tract. A lake has been constructed on the lower portion of the property as outlined on page 18 of the last report. It is only 18 inches in depth, but serves to collect the water from the surrounding marsh, thereby, not only draining the land adjacent but forming an attractive landscape feature. This winter it froze readily, and in spite of the mild weather there were several days when the children enjoyed good skating.

It is much to be regretted that no work has yet been begun at Riverbank Park. The ground has been in use for two years as a temporary play ground, and it was hoped that substantial progress in its permanent improvement might ere this have been made. The Commission has, however, found it extremely difficult to agree with the owners of the property as to the terms of purchase and in almost every case has been forced to resort to proceedings in condemnation. This has delayed the acquirement of the property and has deprived the public of the full enjoyment of the pleasure ground. It is hoped, however, that in the next report some more satisfactory progress can be announced.

The increased use of the reservations has been fully as marked as that of the parks. Little construction work, however, has been done at either Eagle Rock or South Mountain Reservation. It is the intention of the Board to keep these stretches of mountain woodland in their natural state, and to exclude, wherever possible

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he strikes the number of the district in which the fire is on the tire and the ring of the steel can be heard throughout the Reservation. It is the duty of every one employed by the Commission within sound of the call to go at once to the place indicated and assist in putting out the conflagration. There are also hand fire engines and fire extinguishers, and a small fire apparatus always ready for use. Few realize how disastrous the result may be to the forest if a lighted cigar or match is carelessly tossed away among dry leaves. The result of years of careful forestry may be destroyed in a few hours. It is gratifying, however, to be able to report, that although there were 16 fires last summer an unusually large number, the damage to trees was slight because of the prompt extinguishing of every small blaze.

Another enemy of the trees was found last summer, however, which cannot be so readily killed. It is called *diaporthe parasitica* and attacks the chestnut trees only. It was first noted in the reservation last spring and the Board immediately engaged experts to advise it as to the best known means of preventing its spread. The reports of these gentlemen were not encouraging.

It is a fungus which attacks the twigs and branches, or even the stems, of chestnut trees. The infection is always communicated through wounds in the bark; never through buds or natural openings, by means of spores or germs and develops in the inner bark. When once established the fungus extends up and down from the point of attack, and at the same time spreads laterally so that the branch or other part is eventually killed, the germ is always favored by warm moist weather, but it has found living conditions for several years past.

Many chestnut trees have already died from this

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

every valuable chestnut tree and cover all wounds with the same material.

To accommodate the rapidly growing number of visitors to South Mountain Reservation the Commission has, during the past year erected three rustic shelters, at Washington Rock, at Balls Bluff and at Hemlock Falls; costing respectively, \$1,024, \$723 and \$699.75. They were constructed of Chestnut logs, cut with the bark on, which were obtained from the reservation itself during the forestry work. The buildings are made as unobtrusive as possible and are intended merely as resting places and for protection from the sudden showers.

The change in the alignment of Brookside Drive in order to reduce the grade which was mentioned in the last report page 45 has been completed at a cost of \$2,153.84. The sides of South Orange Avenue have also been sloped and graded, especially those in the deep cut west of Cherry Lane.

The work of mosquito extermination has been vigorously pushed and the reservation has been carefully gone over with a view to destroying all breeding places. The largest single area drained was Maple Swamp, so called, a tract of about fifteen acres. It was necessary in this case, in order to get a proper outlet for the water from the marsh to blast through trap rock to a depth of three feet for a distance of 40 yards.

The Commission last spring added to its herd of eight fallow deer by the purchase of twenty-one more, and during the summer they multiplied to a considerable extent so that it is estimated that there are now between forty and forty-five head.

As noted in the last annual report, page 34 the Board has made special effort to teach the officers who patrol the park the greatest possible proficiency in swimming.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

C O N S T R U C T I O N . 1908.

R E C E I P T S .

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1908.		\$192,864 49
Received from Essex County	\$500,000 00	
Interest	9,161 97	
Sales wood, old Material, etc.	8,975 78	
		<u>518,137 75</u>
		\$711,002 24

D I S B U R S E M E N T S .

LAND.

Watsessing Park	\$74,700 00	
Weequahic Reservation	21,875 00	
South Mountain Reservation	195 00	
Parkways	1,305 93	
		<u>\$98,075 93</u>

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park	\$10,007 71	
Westside Park	4,153 25	
Riverbank Park	163 80	
Irvington Park	6,054 13	
Watsessing Park	1,878 97	
Weequahic Reservation	25,474 77	
Eagle Rock Reservation	647 59	
South Mountain Reservation	11,278 37	
East Orange Parkway	43 47	
		<u>\$59,702 06</u>

I T E M S

Grading	
Paving and Sewerage	\$7,587 91
Trees and Plants	630 35
Labor	22,473 49
Tools and Implements	1,263 36
Gardening	
Building and Bridges	25,212 91
Fences and Fountains	1,611 97
Miscellaneous	922 07

\$59,702 06

OFFICE.

Legal	\$3,082 92	
Architects & Engineers	7,365 04	
		<u>\$10,447 96</u>
Cash on hand December 31st, 1908		542,776 29
		<u>\$711,002 24</u>

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant..

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park—

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1907	1908	1907	1908
Middle Division	6,204	5,944	1,780	2,418
Northeastern Division	4,941	5,110	1,120	1,826
Eastside Park				
Westside Park				
Orange Park				
Montclair Park				
Watsessing Park	1,461	1,590	726	914
Weequahic Reservation	1,908	2,730	1,381	1,428
	14,514	15,374	5,007	6,586

	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1907	1908	1907	1908
Branch Brook Park	3,661	3,617	1,142	1,124
Eastside Park	516	617		
Westside Park	1,037	1,099		
Orange Park		791		
Montclair Park		900	790	880
Weequahic Reservation	1,389	2,403		
	6,603	9,427	1,932	2,004

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1907	1908
Branch Brook Park	2,943	8,831
Westside Park	1,911	2,048
Watsessing Park	2,923	1,247
	7,777	12,126

WADING POOLS.

Branch Brook Park	52,667	57,365
Westside Park	42,247	27,514
Orange Park	31,335	6,920
	126,249	91,799

1

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

In regard to the Watsessing appropriation no action has been taken as yet because the Board has been informed that the Town of Bloomfield has bonded itself to the extent of \$25,000 for the purchase of park property which will shortly be turned over to this Commission. The appropriation, therefore, is being reserved for development purposes. The liberality of the citizens and municipal authorities will make it possible to create a most useful and attractive addition to Watsessing Park very near the centre of the town which can be used for playground purposes.

The appropriation for Irvington is unexpended because it has been impossible to agree with property owners as to the proper valuation of property which the Board desires to add to Irvington Park, and here it should be said again, as was stated in the last report, that if the citizens of a locality desire the creation of a park within their municipal limits they should, before fixing the appropriation, obtain reasonable guarantees that the improvement can be made within the sum specified. Otherwise there will be an unfinished development which is neither valuable nor useful to the neighborhood. It is hardly sufficient to obtain estimates on land to be taken, actual options should be secured in order that this Board may be reasonably sure of carrying the work to a successful conclusion before it is begun. The Commission has decided after its experience with the purchase of land in Irvington that should other localities secure appropriations from the Legislature for park purposes it will not ask the Freeholders to authorize the expenditure until, by the presentation of options for the majority of the land to be acquired it can be certain that the work can be properly concluded within the amount available. In the case of the Irvington Park it is doubtful if all the

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was not thought prudent to deepen it because a portion of it covers the site of an old stone quarry, and it was feared if the mud and dirt were too thoroughly removed the water might seep away through crevices in the rock. In this Division at the Sussex Avenue playground was held on August 25th the First Field Day of the Park Playgrounds. During the summer the children had been trained in the various exercises in which they were to take part, and took the keenest interest in the work. All those engaged in the various events were given badges, and medals were awarded to the successful contestants. The programme consisted of the following:

ORDER OF EVENTS.

1. Dumb-bell drill (boys).
2. Girls Indian Club relay race.
3. 100 yard dash, senior, trials.
4. 50 yard dash, junior, trials.
5. Wand drill, (girls).
6. 220 yard dash, senior, trials.
7. 100 yard dash, junior, trials.
8. 100 yard dash, senior, final.
9. 50 yard dash, junior, final.
10. Potato race, (girls), trials.
11. Potato race, (boys), trials.
12. Potato race, (girls), final.
13. Potato race, (boys), final.
14. 220 yard dash, senior, final.
15. 100 yard dash, junior, final.
16. 440 yard dash, senior, final.
17. One-half mile relay, junior, final.
18. One mile relay, senior, final.
19. Exhibition of sewing and awarding of medals and banners.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

At Westside Park rustic arbors were constructed on either side of the steps which descend from the esplanade across the terraces to the water. They will be covered with wistaria vines. They are constructed of Cedar, and designed as resting places for the visitors to the formal gardens. Their cost was \$820.50.

The only new construction work at Orange Park was the laying of a new tar macadam walk on Centre Street, 4 feet wide and 900 feet long. Its cost was \$303.88.

At Watsessing Park the addition to Dodd Street has been completed with the exception of the planting. The cost was \$1,721.59. The tar macadam walk on Glenwood Avenue 5 feet wide and 1,930 feet long has been finished at a cost of \$1,104.02 including the grading. This park is becoming an exceedingly popular one for both the citizens of East Orange and Bloomfield in both of which municipalities it lies. The citizens of East Orange held a field day thereon the 4th of July and carried out an attractive programme of sports and speeches. A flag pole was presented to the County which was erected upon the athletic field. It was accepted by Commissioner Sinclair on behalf of the Board subject to the rules of the Commission that none but the American flag shall be displayed on any flag pole erected on property controlled by this Commission. The Bloomfield citizens have also taken an active interest in this park and have notified the Commission that the Town has bonded itself to the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase of land in Bloomfield adjacent to property already owned by the County and adding it to the present park area. This is a most gratifying example of public spirit and shows that the people appreciate the value of park undertakings and their urgent necessity in a community

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thus joining two city blocks into one tract and giving the park an acreage of 5.75 acres. The grading has been completed and the remainder of the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible in order that at least a portion of the park may be in useable condition during the coming season. The improvement consists of the usual playground features and will contain a running track and outdoor gymnasium for the men and boys, also a wading pool and sand courts for the children. A suitable field house will be erected for the comfort and convenience of those using the park.

The construction work at Irvington Park has also been finished except the planting, which will be done in the spring.

The playground and athletic features largely predominate. Athletic fields with running tracks have been constructed, and ball fields and tennis courts arranged for. For the use of the smaller children a wading pool has been provided. While the park is largely devoted to playground purposes it also contains the usual park features.

The \$50,000 which was appropriated for this park by the last legislature will be used in extending the boundary to Lyons Avenue, if the funds are sufficient to permit of the purchase of the land and of a moderate improvement.

The name of Montclair Park has been changed, at the request of the Town Council and of numerous citizens to Anderson Park, in honor of Mr. C. W. Anderson who presented the land which now forms so attractive an addition to the system. The Board has made no improvement here during the past year except to install an automatic bubbling fountain. If this device proves satis-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

low the line of Elizabeth Avenue. The route through the park land saves a very heavy cut by avoiding steep grades. The plan for improvement of this addition includes a driveway from Meeker Avenue to the southern end of the park joining the present drive at the Elizabeth Avenue bridge over the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the construction of a bridle path. It is with regret that the Commission announces the destruction of the fine old chestnut trees which were for so many years a conspicuous ornament to this park. They were attacked by the chestnut pest, *diaporthe parasitica*, described in the last report, about three years ago. Every effort was made to preserve them and expert advice was secured, both from the State and National Departments of Forestry and from experts in arborculture. The Board was informed that there is no known remedy for this pest, and finally last summer the trees succumbed. They have been removed and in their places have been planted young oaks, which are supposed to be immune from this disease. The aquatic population has been increased in this park by the purchase of an additional pair of white swans and a pair of black or Australian swans. The ducks and geese have multiplied rapidly and their presence in the lake adds to its attractions. A tar macadam walk has been laid along the Frelinghuysen Avenue and Dayton Street boundaries of the park for a distance of 4,000 feet at a cost of \$1,629.50.

The Road Horse Association continues its weekly racing meets on the track to the delight of thousands of visitors, and the Bait and Fly Casting Club furnishes sport for the enthusiastic fisherman. The Board is endeavoring to keep the fishing in the lake as satisfactory as possible. Last December 1,000 yellow perch and 2,000 black bass were received through the courtesy of the

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Hitherto there have been no reservation roads except in the valley and along the First Mountain. Last fall the work of opening the fine views that can be had from the second mountain was begun by starting work on a drive from South Orange Avenue along the slope of this mountain to a point in Cherry Lane about one-third of a mile south of Northfield Road. The surplus material excavated from the roadway was used in filling swamp holes and thus continuing the work begun some years ago to eliminate all breeding places of mosquitoes on territory controlled by this Board. It is the intention of this Commission to continue with the development of the road system in this reservation year by year, appropriating a small sum annually for this purpose and thus developing the remarkable natural beauties of this largest of the parks gradually and as the public use warrants. Visitors here are rapidly increasing in numbers and on Summer Sundays and holidays especially the woods and hillsides attract very many people. The deer which were purchased some years ago have multiplied remarkably and it is now estimated that the herd numbers upward of seventy. The chestnut pest has been found here and at Eagle Rock as well as at Weequahic, but fortunately there are comparatively few chestnut trees in the reservations and as the forestry work proceeds the species not affected by the disease are set out when possible. The Commission set out 650 rhododendrons last season at a cost of \$275.24. This is in pursuance of its policy to reintroduce this beautiful shrub into the woods where it was once so plentiful but where vandalism has completely banished it. The mountain laurel is also being developed and the rare forest trees such as white pine, hemlock and the pin oak are being set out. It is the plan of the Commission to develop this

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

C O N S T R U C T I O N . 1909.

R E C E I P T S .

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1909		\$542,776 29
Received from Essex County	\$257,000 00	
Interest	9,558 06	
Sales	2,409 88	

\$268,967 94

LAND. D I S B U R S E M E N T S .

\$811,744 23

Riverbank Park	\$89,273 05
Weequahic Park	76,792 60
South Mountain Reservation	400 22
Parkways	1,665 00

\$168,130 87

P A R K S , R E S E R V A T I O N S A N D P A R K W A Y S .

Branch Brook Park	\$ 1,152 35
Westside Park	1,068 94
Orange Park	303 88
Watsessing Park	2,408 17
Anderson Park	41 72
Riverbank Park	3,095 31
Irvington Park	21,948 82
Montclair Park	139 91
Weequahic Park	8,798 54
Eagle Rock Reservation	4,938 22
South Mountain Reservation	6,386 99
East Orange Parkway	120 00

\$50,402 85

I T E M S .

Grading	\$ 65 25
Paving & Sewerage	8,203 14
Trees and Plants	188 80
Labor	38,349 14
Tools and Implements	1,169 59
Gardening	
Buildings and Bridges	1,745 98
Fences and Fountains	332 50
Miscellaneous	348 45

OFFICE.

\$50,402 85

Legal	\$4,358 16
Architects and Engineers	9,629 94

\$13,988 10

Cash on hand December 31st, 1909	\$579,222 41
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\$811,744 23

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.

PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years 1908 and 1909.

	1908			1909		
	Aggregate Monthly Attend- ance	No. of Days Play Grnd Open	Average Daily Attend- ance	Aggregate Monthly Attend- ance	No. of Days Play Grnd Open	Average Daily Attend- ance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook Park ..	8,335	11	758	12,792	17	752
Eastside Park	7,849	11	714	8,856	17	521
Westside Park	4,770	11	434	10,465	17	615
Orange Park	1,166	11	106	3,487	17	205
Watsessing Park	1,225	11	111	4,220	17	248
Riverbank Park	1,560	13	120	1,934	17	114
	24,905	68	2,243	41,754	102	2,455

MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook Park ..	37,528	25	1,501	38,544	24	1,606
Eastside Park	33,640	25	1,346	32,480	24	1,353
Westside Park	32,525	25	1,341	30,415	24	1,267
Orange Park	4,682	25	187	12,436	24	518
Watsessing Park	3,345	25	134	4,763	24	198
Riverbank Park	3,960	25	158	3,546	24	148
	115,680	150	4,667	122,184	144	5,090

MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook Park ..	62,904	26	2,419	63,692	26	2,450
Eastside Park	39,550	26	1,521	39,078	26	1,503
Westside Park	58,860	26	2,264	58,711	26	2,258
Orange Park	5,753	26	221	14,325	26	551
Watsessing Park	5,080	25	203	6,698	26	258
Riverbank Park	4,364	25	175	6,455	26	248
	176,511	154	6,803	188,959	156	7,268

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

GAME FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park—

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1908	1909	1908	1909
Middle Division	5,944	5,960	2,418	3,110
Northern Division	5,110	3,544	1,826	950
Eastside Park				
Westside Park				
Orange Park				
Anderson Park				
Watsessing Park	1,590	1,464	914	1,012
Weequahic Reservation	2,730	6,888	1,428	2,010
	15,374	17,856	6,586	7,082

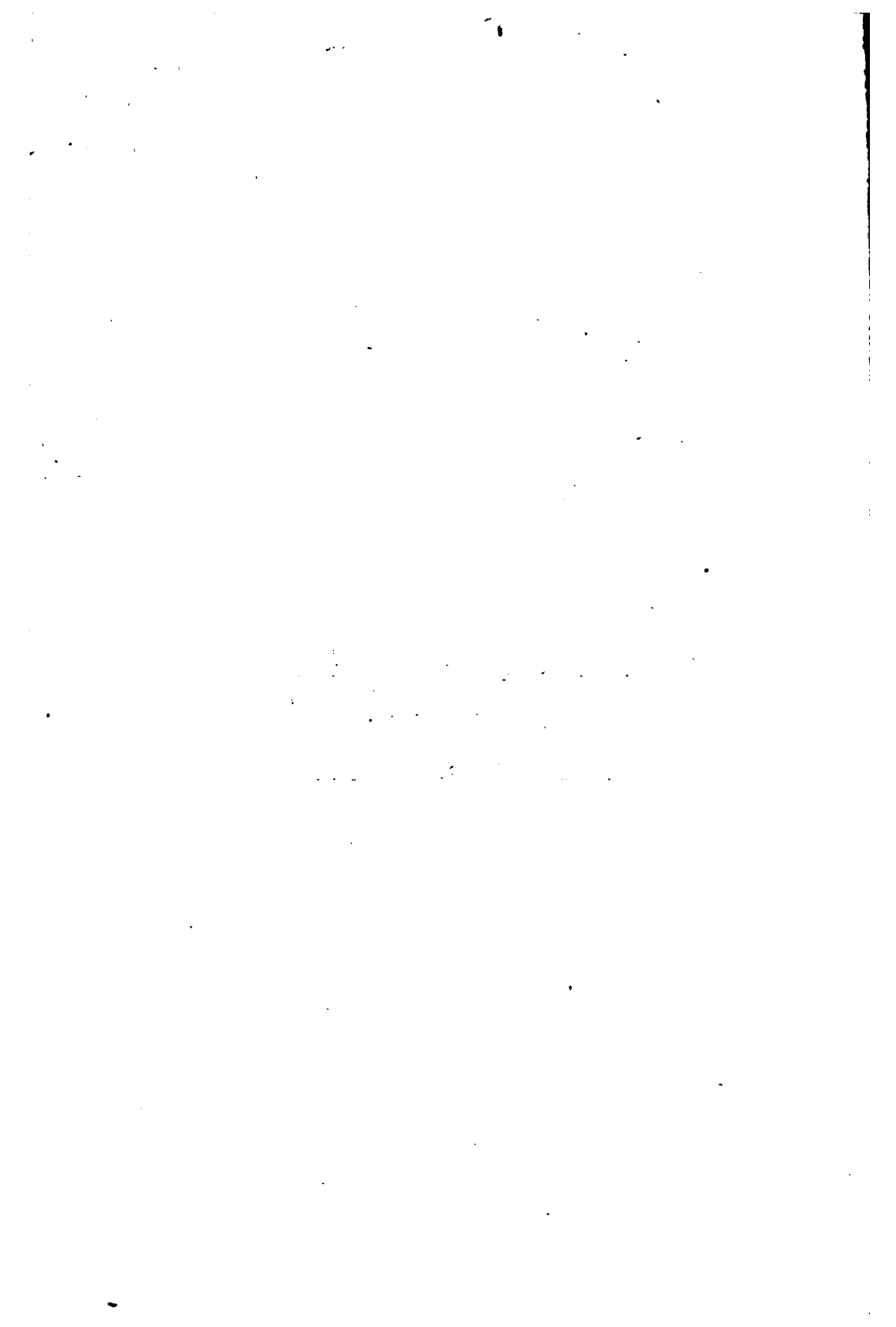
	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1908	1909	1908	1909
Branch Brook Park	3,617	4,062	1,124	1,155
Eastside Park	617	320		
Westside Park	1,099	729		
Orange Park	791	663		
Anderson Park	900	1,490	880	908
Weequahic Reservation	2,403	3,843		
	9,427	11,107	2,004	2,063

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1908	1909
Branch Brook Park	8,831	53,401
Westside Park	2,048	2,124
Watsessing Park	1,247	1,427
	12,126	56,952

WADING POOLS.

	1908	1909
Branch Brook Park	57,365	65,530
Westside Park	27,514	23,790
Orange Park	6,920	7,435
	91,799	96,755

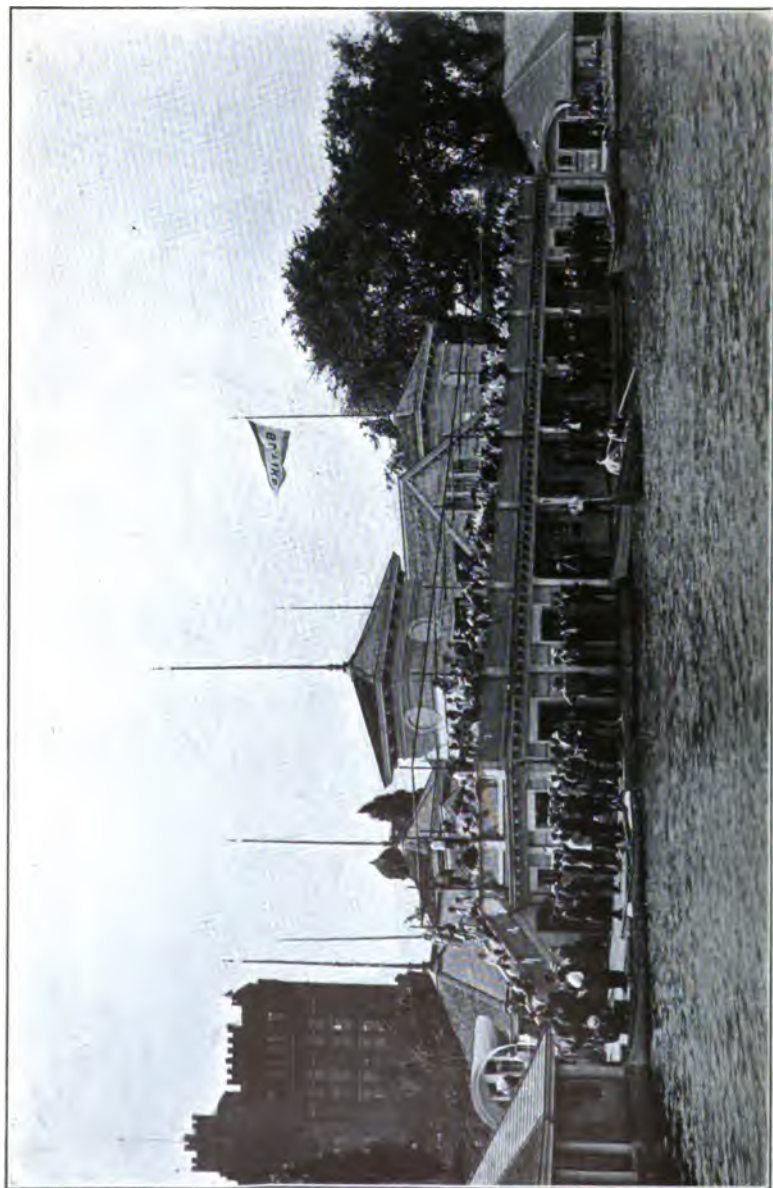




FOREST AND STREAM, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION.



THISTLE MILL FORD, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION.



BOAT HOUSE, BRANCH BROOK PARK.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

tremely important and desirable matter in park making. Such an arrangement prevents the possibility of erecting houses with rears toward the park and the erection of unsightly stables and out-buildings along the park sky line. \$25,000. was the estimated cost of this addition and only that amount will be available.

The other \$25,000. will be expended on the Bloomfield end of the park, carrying it out to Bloomfield Avenue and almost into the centre of the town. This land has all been secured within the appropriation. The Town of Bloomfield—as noted in the last Report, page 8—bonded itself to the amount of \$25,000. and purchased a considerable tract of land contiguous to that taken by the Commission. The care, custody and control of this land was transferred to the Park Commission on De-



PLAYGROUND, ORANGE PARK.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT



BAND CONCERT, WEEQUAHIC PARK.

pendent on the improvement of this territory, and that is all that is now available. It will probably be sufficient to secure a very simple treatment, but the size of the park has been so much increased by the various additions through gift and purchase that nothing elaborate can be attempted.

It is the intention of the Commission to utilize the Bloomfield portion for playground purposes—as was done in the case of the East Orange area. Sand courts, running tracks, out door gymnasia, tennis courts and ball fields will be provided, and a proper locker house if the funds are sufficient. The Park Commission has repeatedly stated that the public play ground is one of the



AT THE END OF THE LAKE, WEEQUAHIC PARK.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Watsessing Park has some very finely wooded land and these trees will be carefully preserved and cared for and will form an attractive background for the game fields and a pleasant retreat from the summer heat. The use of the game fields on the East Orange end of the park increases each year, being specially accessible to the children of the Webster Street and other neighboring public schools. The Commission last summer placed an instructor there and will continue to have one in charge in future. A concrete sand court was installed to replace the wooden one, and the plantations were completed out to Dodd Street. Through the courtesy of Mr.



PLAYGROUND DANCING, BRANCH BROOK PARK.

sion—as noted in the last report, page 13, has accepted one of these tracts—that contiguous to the Maple Avenue school. In order to straighten the boundary lines and bring the park out to Bloomfield Avenue the Board acquired a tract of land on the corner of Maple and Bloomfield Avenues, containing about 1.91 acres. The cost was \$20,860. This park therefore is bounded by Bloomfield Avenue, Maple Avenue, Woodland Avenue and the Montclair Branch of the D. L. & W. R. R. The fund for the improvement of this tract, including the purchase of the additional land, amounts to \$100,000. and was authorized by the Legislature of 1909. The estimated cost of the improvements is \$60,000. The plans provide for one main entrance at the corner of Bloomfield and Maple Avenues and the other at the corner of Maple and Woodland Avenues. Just inside the Bloomfield Avenue entrance will be located the wading pool and sand courts, which are designed for the benefit of the younger children. Beyond this—a short distance south—will be scups and swings. Beyond the present grounds of the Maple Avenue school there will be a large open air gymnasium. This will be encircled by a running track with six laps to the mile. Within the oval at the west end will be the boys' and mens' gymnastic apparatus, and at the east end those for the girls and women. On the south of this gymnasium there will be a field house about one hundred and twenty feet long by twenty feet wide, which will be equipped with lockers, shower baths and applicances for the use of athletes. South of this will be the base ball field and beyond this will be the tennis field with seven courts. In the southern part of the park will be a large expanse of lawns, and in the southeastern corner where the stream called Tony's Brook passes through the property there will be a landscape treatment in consonance with the



THE BROOK, BRANCH BROOK PARK, NORTHERN DIVISION.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T



FIELD DAY AT BRANCH BROOK PARK.

Unless a more reasonable figure can be agreed upon it will not be included within the park limits.

The Board secured at private sale a tract of land of about sixteen acres, which was the acquirement under the original appropriation, at a cost of about \$1,800. per acre. When the second appropriation was secured it was supposed that the additional land could be gotten at about the same figures. Condemnation proceedings, however, for the adjoining tract resulted in an award of \$4,000. an acre, and thus the money set aside for improvement had to be used for acquirement. This situation merely emphasizes what was said in the last report, namely, that when the citizens of any given locality ask the Legislature to appropriate money for a given park project, they should make sure by options and estimates that the work may be carried out with the money avail-



BRANCH BROOK PARK, MIDDLE DIVISION.





TERRACES, WESTSIDE PARK.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Care should be taken in the dry season as to the disposal of cigars, cigarettes and matches. If these are carelessly thrown when lighted among pine needles or leaves disastrous results may follow.

The long dry seasons have had their effect upon the health of the trees and shrubs which have thus been deprived of their usual supply of nourishment and consequently in their weakened condition are more prone to succumb to the attacks of insects and tree diseases. The Board was compelled to water the shrubbery plantations, especially those recently set out, to keep them alive; but any systematic irrigation of the trees in such large areas was out of the question, both on account of the



CHRYSANTHEMUMS, BRANCH BROOK PARK GREENHOUSE.



BEGONIA EXHIBIT, BRANCH BROOK PARK GREENHOUSE.



ONE OF THE DEER, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION.

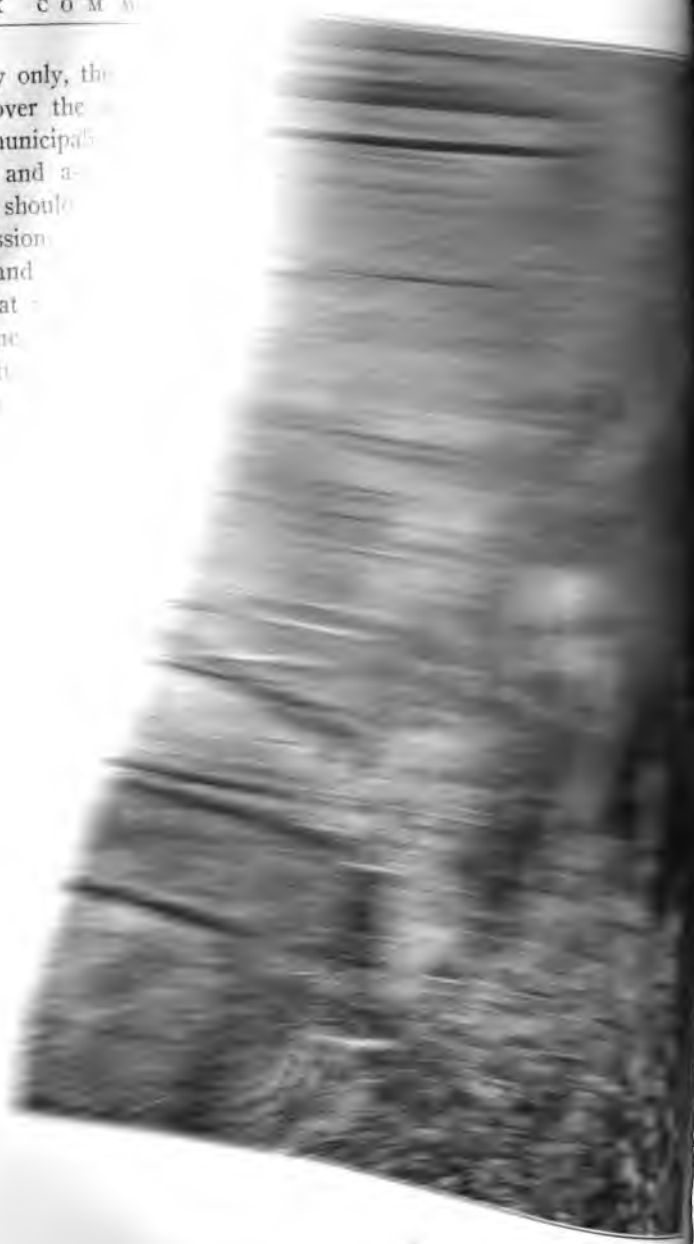
COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

...continues continuing their super-
... The Commission requested
... curb and gutter along the
... feeling that the property
... in view of the fact that the
... the avenue with public
... It was not until last
... be reached whereby this
... was then confronted by the
... East Orange that service
... as there was no legal authority
... A bill will be introduced
... that authority. In the



P A R K C O M M

roadway only, the
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avenue and a
owners should
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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T



DORSET SHEEP AT WEEQUAHIC PARK.

cidents and no deaths from drowning have occurred in over two years. The lakes are patrolled by policemen in boats whenever open to the public and these men must be expert swimmers. No man is appointed a park policeman unless he can prove his proficiency in swimming. Moreover all policemen are required to practice swimming and diving under the direction of an instructor once a week during the summer season. Swimming matches are arranged at the conclusion of the course and prizes for special proficiency awarded.

In order that the police may be familiar with the use of the pistol also they are required to attend during the winter a course in pistol practice. They are graded according to National Guard rating and medals are awarded as in the swimming matches. A man with an average



FOUNTAIN, BRANCH BROOK PARK.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION. 1910.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1910		\$579,222 41
Received from Essex County	\$ 6,782 39	
Interest	10,432 94	
Sales	21,830 17	
		\$ 39,045 50
		\$618,267 91

LAND. DISBURSEMENTS.

Watsessing Park	\$38,139 29	
Irvington Park	30,000 00	
Montclair Park	20,860 00	
Parkways	628 35	
		\$ 89,627 64

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park	\$ 99 68	
Watsessing Park	248 31	
Riverbank Park	10,135 65	
Irvington Park	2,670 42	
Montclair Park	1,136 54	
Weequahic Park	952 30	
Eagle Rock Reservation	14,761 95	
South Mountain Reservation	1,712 14	
East Orange Parkway	11,086 93	
Park Avenue	22,416 52	
		\$ 65,220 44

ITEMS.

Paving and Sewerage	\$35,412 29
Trees and Plants	363 88
Labor	25,174 16
Tools and Implements	694 41
Gardening	13 00
Buildings and Bridges	3,304 06
Fences and Fountains	114 00
Miscellaneous	144 64

OFFICE.

	\$65,220 44	
Legal	\$ 2,135 90	
Architects and Engineers	14,443 62	
		\$ 16 579 52
Cash on hand December 31st, 1910		\$446,840 31
		\$618,267 91

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.

PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years 1909 and 1910

	1909			1910		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook Park	12,792	17	752	12,320	13	871
Eastside Park	8,856	17	521	13,405	13	1,031
Westside Park	10,465	17	615	18,400	13	1,415
Orange Park	3,487	17	205	2,830	13	218
Watsessing Park	4,220	17	248	4,240	13	326
Riverbank Park	1,934	17	114	*	*	*
	41,754	102	2,455	51,195	65	3,861

MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook Park	38,544	24	1,606	39,053	23	1,699
Eastside Park	32,480	24	1,353	20,560	23	894
Westside Park	30,415	24	1,267	34,940	23	1,519
Orange Park	12,436	24	518	12,280	23	534
Watsessing Park	4,763	24	198	4,035	23	175
Riverbank Park	3,546	24	148	*	*	*
	122,184	144	5,090	110,878	115	4,821

MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook Park	63,692	26	2,450	74,861	26	2,879
Eastside Park	39,078	26	1,503	25,379	26	976
Westside Park	58,711	26	2,258	58,726	26	2,259
Orange Park	14,325	26	551	30,260	26	1,164
Watsessing Park	6,698	26	258	7,855	26	302
Riverbank Park	6,455	26	248	*	*	*
	188,959	156	7,268	197,081	130	7,580

*Riverbank Playground closed on account of construction work.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1909	1910	1909	1910
Middle Division	5,960	8,459	3,110	6,462
Northern Division	3,544	3,760	950	260
Eastside Park				
Westside Park				
Orange Park				
Watsessing Park	1,464	504	1,012	3,254
Anderson Park				
Weequahic Park	6,888	19,682	2,010	5,666
	17,856	32,405	7,082	15,642

	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1909	1910	1909	1910
Branch Brook Park	4,062	5,065	1,155	920
Eastside Park	320	491		
Westside Park	729	1,011		
Orange Park	663	628		
Anderson Park	1,490	1,566	908	808
Weequahic Park	3,843	5,340		
	11,107	14,101	2,063	1,728

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1909.	1910.
Branch Brook Park	53,401	40,854
Westside Park	2,124	3,968
Watsessing Park	1,427	619
	56,952	45,441

WADING POOLS.

	1909.	1910.
Branch Brook Park	65,530	60,180
Westside Park	23,790	37,430
Orange Park	7,435	6,730
	96,755	104,340



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

"Therefore be it Resolved: That the Board accepts the resignation of Mr. Shepard as President with great regret, and assures him, not only of its appreciation of the value of his services to the County, but also of the high personal esteem in which he is held by his colleagues and their sorrow at the severance of the intimate associations which have existed so long.

"Resolved Further: That the Secretary be directed to send to Mr. Shepard an engrossed copy of these resolutions and assure him of the best wishes of his associates for the future."

Camillus G. Kidder, Esq., of Orange was appointed to succeed Mr. Shepard. Mr. Murphy succeeded him as President of the Board, and Mr. Sinclair was elected Vice-President.

The Legislature of 1911 authorized the issuance of additional park bonds to the amount of \$285,000. \$100,000 of this amount was for the purpose of securing a park for Glen Ridge, \$100,000 for a park in Belleville, \$60,000 to supplement the appropriation heretofore made for Nutley and \$25,000 for an extension to Watsessing Park. The Park Commission has as yet taken no action on the Glen Ridge or Belleville appropriations.

No new construction work has been done at either Branch Brook or Eastside Parks. These parks are used by ever increasing numbers of people who enjoy the many opportunities they offer for open air sport and enjoyment. At Branch Brook Park the Board of Education of the City of Newark held the annual field day exercises of its playground department on August 22nd, and here on August 28th, the annual field day exercises of the Park playgrounds were held. These

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The purchase of property at Watsessing Park has been practically completed and includes a strip of ground on the west side of the brook, mentioned in the last report, which carries the park out to Franklin Avenue, gives the Commission the complete control of the brook, and places within the park limits a finely wooded knoll, which adds greatly to its beauty. Plans for the grading and draining of this tract are being prepared and the work will be begun during the coming season. It should be noted, however, that the Board has not sufficient funds to complete the improvement.

Irvington Park is another case where the funds were insufficient for acquirement and development. About two-thirds of the park is finished and is used by a constantly increasing number of people. The balance of the land is unimproved because of the smallness of the Legislative appropriation. These instances illustrate the necessity of carefully estimating the needs of a contemplated addition to the park system before an appeal for funds is made to the Legislature. In many cases the Park Commission is not consulted and the Board is not informed in the matter until the law is passed. It then becomes necessary to proceed without the full amount required, or to decline to undertake an improvement which may have great merit, which the people desire and the Legislature has approved. In order that the incomplete portions of the system may be made useable, without further large bond issues the Park Commission had a bill prepared which will permit the Freeholders, in their discretion, to include in the annual tax levy any sum up to \$100,000 to be turned over to the Commission to be used in this manner.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

become so chilled that they cannot hatch. The officers in charge have received special orders to arrest all who are caught in this petty thievery and the Board will endeavor to have them dealt with as severely as is consistent with justice. Last summer a setting of the eggs of a black swan was stolen only three days before they would have hatched.

The destruction—by the *diaporthe parisitica*—of the chestnut trees, which were very numerous in the park and of great beauty, seriously affected the other trees. The removal of so many in so short a time allowed so much more light and sunshine to reach those that remained that the ground around became too dry and the trees themselves began to suffer. The Board secured the services of Mr. Alfred Gaskill, the State Forester, and Mr. W. A. Murrill, Assistant Director New York Botanical Garden who carefully went over the situation and recommended measures to relieve it. At their suggestion numbers of smaller trees, both deciduous and coniferous, were planted about the roots of the larger ones. The idea in this was to keep the ground shaded and thus retain some of the natural moisture by softening the strong sunlight. It was thought, also, that as these young trees grow they will protect their larger neighbors from too much light and gradually re-construct the shaded copses and forest shadows which the chestnut pest so suddenly and completely destroyed. The trees were also extra fertilized, and the surrounding earth enriched. It is hoped in this way to prevent the chestnut pest, the worst destroyer of the forest ever known, from killing the other older trees as well as the chestnuts. The playfields in the park are constantly crowded and it is hoped that funds may be

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

vigorously. A field house has been built for the accommodation of those using the athletic fields and the base ball and tennis grounds. It is 110 feet by 42 feet of cement block construction with stucco finish and a roof of red tile. It is provided with shower baths, lockers and other necessary adjuncts of an athletic nature. A shelter for the smaller children has also been erected of the same construction. It contains a covered sand court. On the completion of this park playground apparatus will be installed and instructors stationed there to guide and assist the children. As noted in the last report, a large portion of this park was given to the County by the Town of Montclair.

The Commission, during the past year, determined upon the location of a park in Nutley, for which improvement \$40,000 was appropriated by the Legislature of 1909, and \$60,000 by the Legislature of 1911. The location is between Passaic Avenue, Elm Street, Chestnut Street and Centre Street. It is near the centre of the town and includes not only considerable upland on Passaic Avenue, but also the lowlands on both sides of the Yanticaw River, from which it takes its name—Yanticaw Park. One parcel of land has been purchased, a tract of about nineteen acres, for \$39,242.50. The Board hopes to complete the acquirement and begin the construction during the coming year.

Riverbank Park has been completed and this year will be opened to the use and enjoyment of the people. It is situated in one of the most congested sections of the City of Newark and is greatly needed as a playground and breathing space for the surrounding tenement house district. The park has been improved along playground lines with sand courts and play-

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

tion. An eight inch well was accordingly sunk, located east of the administration buildings. It was sunk to a depth of 300 feet and upon test showed a yield of 100 gallons per minute. The water supply problem was therefore solved, but it was impossible to water the trees throughout the reservations—nearly 2,500 acres. Many suffered severely and numbers died. This added to the disappearance of the chestnut before the attacks of the *diaporthe parisitica* has thinned the woodland more than was desirable. The Board, however, two years ago established a nursery of evergreen trees to which it has added the deciduous ones as well. It will be possible, therefore, to set out several thousand small trees next spring, and to continue these transplantations annually. Although some of them will not survive, as they are taken from the nursery where they can be watered to places throughout the reservation where that is impossible, many of them will grow as they are young and hardy. In this way it is thought the loss of trees may be counteracted and the forest protected and preserved. The nursery is stocked with small seedlings costing a few cents apiece, and by annual additions, there are each year a quantity of trees ready to set out.

The Board has continued its policy of setting out at South Mountain several hundred *Rhododendron Maxima* in order to reintroduce this beautiful shrub, once native to the Orange Mountain, but entirely extinct when the Commission acquired the land, by reason of forest fires and wanton destruction by the vandal. The mountain laurel and wild azalea have greatly increased because of the enforcement of the ordinance forbidding visitors to pick or transplant them. The same is true of the native wild flowers.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Orange Parkway. It was secured through the generosity of citizens of East Orange, and is a great adornment to the parkway. It is of heroic size and represents the Great Emancipator standing with a military cloak thrown loosely over his shoulders. The sculptor is Mr. Frank Edwin Elwell.

The report of the Treasurer and the usual tables are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION. 1911.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1911.....		\$ 446,840 31
Received from Essex County.....	\$ 50,000 00	
Interest	6,702 17	
Sales	7,870 68	
		\$64,572 85
		\$511,413 16

LAND.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Watsessing Park	\$ 28,184 10	
Irrington Park	5,000 00	
Yanticaw Park	39,242 50	
South Mountain Reservation.....	16 74	
Parkways	497 67	
		\$ 72,941 01

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Watsessing Park.....	\$ 416 69	
Riverbank Park.....	12,052 68	
Weequahic Park.....	20,705 05	
Glenfield Park.....	33,027 15	
Yanticaw Park.....	18 56	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	22,674 13	
East Orange Parkway.....	38 50	
Park Avenue.....	41,234 73	
		\$ 130,167 49

ITEMS.

Paving and Sewerage.....	\$ 22,727 39
Trees and Plants.....	188 00
Labor	52,047 45
Tools and Implements.....	2,975 42
Buildings and Bridges.....	51,917 25
Fences and Fountains.....	226 26
Miscellaneous	85 72

\$130,167 49

OFFICE.

Legal Expenses	\$ 954 16	
Architects and Engineers.....	12,401 85	
		\$ 13,356 01
Cash on hand December 31st, 1911.....	\$ 294,948 65	
		\$ 511,413 16

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.

PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years of 1910 and 1911.

	1910			1911		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook.....	12,320	13	871	24,275	20	1,214
Eastside	13,405	13	1,031	20,210	20	1,010
Westside	18,400	13	1,415	31,888	20	1,594
Orange	2,830	13	218	11,175	20	559
Watsessing	4,240	13	326	6,340	20	317
Riverbank	*	*	*	*	*	*

51,195	65	3,861	93,888	100	4,694
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MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook.....	39,063	23	1,699	20,920	18	1,162
Eastside	20,560	23	894	16,665	18	926
Westside	34,940	23	1,519	38,367	18	2,131
Orange	12,280	23	534	22,485	18	1,249
Watsessing	4,035	23	175	5,760	18	320
Riverbank	*	*	*	*	*	*

110,878	115	4,821	104,197	90	5,788
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MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook.....	74,861	26	2,879	50,010	22	2,274
Eastside	25,379	26	976	22,860	22	1,039
Westside	58,726	26	2,259	70,860	22	3,221
Orange	30,260	26	1,164	30,960	22	1,407
Watsessing	7,855	26	302	11,442	22	520
Riverbank	*	*	*	10,790	22	491
Irvington	**	**	**	29,360	22	1,335

197,081	130	7,580	226,282	154	10,287
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PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

GAME FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park:

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1910	1911	1910	1911
Middle Division.....	8,459	9,551*	6,462	3,960*
Northern Division	3,760	4,626*	260	489*
Watsessing Park.....	504	522*	3,254	330*
Weequahic Park	19,682	6,300*	5,666	1,626*
	32,405	20,999	15,642	6,405
	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1910	1911	1910	1911
Branch Brook Park.....	5,065	5,675	920	662
Eastside Park	491	86		
Westside Park	1,011	1,372		
Orange Park	628	1,072		
Anderson Park	1,566	918	808	874
Weequahic Park.....	5,340	4,117		
	14,101	13,240	1,728	1,536

*Players only.

*Players only.

Roque.

	1910	1911
Westside		304*

*Players.

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1910	1911
Branch Brook Park.....	40,854	76,245
Westside Park	3,968	4,074
Watsessing Park.....	619	1,276
	45,441	12,975

WADING POOLS.

	1910	1911
Branch Brook Park.....	60,180	75,565
Westside Park.....	37,430	60,125
Orange Park.....	6,730	17,282
Riverbank Park.....	*	12,560
Irvington Park.....	**	23,965
	104,340	189,497

*Riverbank Playground closed on account of construction work.

**Irvington Playground opened July 1, 1911.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

scheme outlined by the Board at the inception of its work found favor with the public, the expression of approval should come from the public: and should the people desire any extensions they should secure the necessary money from the Legislature. The Commission, however, reserved to itself the right to decline to execute any plan which seemed to it and its landscape advisers unnecessary or unwise. In this way it was thought, the new parks would be the direct result of the mandate of the people who use, enjoy and pay for them. In the case of the proposed Verona Park it happened, as it has happened several times before, that those who initiated the idea did not thoroughly realize the expense involved and under-estimated the cost. This situation was alluded to in the last report, page eight, and attention was called to the fact that at least three parks, Weequahic, Wat-sessing and Irvington, were unfinished for the same reason. The Board felt that it was unwise to take from the county ratables any more property, which could not, on account of insufficient funds, be properly developed, and which might lie useless and unproductive for several years. The Commission therefore declined to ask the Board of Chosen Freeholders to issue the bonds, and informed the citizens of Verona that if a park is to be constructed in that locality they must secure enough money to purchase and improve a suitable area.

In the case of Glen Ridge, for which the Legislature of 1911 authorized the expenditure of \$100,000 for park purposes, the Commission exercised the veto power it reserved to itself as mentioned above. The Board realizes that its powers are largely administrative, and are to be exercised at the discretion of the people, expressed in the acts of their legislative representatives. At the same time it feels that there is lodged with it a certain amount of discretion, a right to say whether this or that

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

get legislative approval for an increase in the rate of interest. The site for the Belleville Park has been selected. It is what is known as the Hendricks' tract on the high land along John and Mill streets near Second River. The property commands a beautiful view to the east, is not encumbered with buildings and is admirably adapted for park purposes. Its owner has assured the Board that should the money become available he will sell to the county for a reasonable figure.

There are many reasons which make it desirable to add to Westside Park the block bounded by 13th and 14th Streets and 16th and 18th Avenues. When the park was constructed in 1897 it was thought that its twenty-three acres would be ample to meet the needs of the surrounding population. The rapid growth of the city in that direction, however, has so built up the neighborhood that the playgrounds are already too small for the thousands of boys and girls who crowd them all summer long. The block in question is a portion of what was known as Magnolia Swamp, an apparently bottomless bog. It is almost impossible to erect on it any buildings which will maintain their equilibrium and most of them gradually settle into the swamp. The City of Newark through its Building Department and Board of Works urged the Commission to acquire the land and thus prevent further danger along this line. The Commission has approved the suggestion and issued the necessary request to the Freeholders for the money, and it regrets that this improvement as well as that at Belleville must be delayed by inability to float the bond issues. Should the money be forthcoming the city of Newark has agreed to close 14th Street, thus uniting the new section with the old park; and the Board will transfer the playgrounds to the new area and considerably enlarge them. This acquirement would add 8.3 acres to the park area.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

games, and the contests are often well played and very interesting. The various park playgrounds also have leagues, a junior and a senior, and at the annual field day the successful park is awarded a pennant, which it is privileged to fly on its game field during the ensuing season. Another sport has been added to the catalogue of park athletics. A golf course has been constructed at Weequahic Park. It is a nine-hole course of about 3,150 feet in length and was laid out by an expert golfer. Some difficulty was experienced in properly locating it so as not to interfere too much with the trees or make it necessary to remove them. For this reason a nine-hole course was decided on, as to construct an eighteen-hole course would have made it essential to cut down a great many fine trees which the Board was unwilling to sanction. It is hoped that the public may be able to use the course toward the latter part of the Summer. It should certainly be in good condition in the early Spring of 1914.

Not only has the popularity of the playgrounds greatly increased, but the use of the other portions of the parks as well. The park lakes at Branch Brook and Weequahic are crowded with boats and canoes, and the drives and walks with those who enjoy riding or strolling through attractive scenery, and watching the games or looking at the trees and flowers. The Commission has found it necessary to increase the lighting facilities at Branch Brook and Weequahic Parks, and in the East Orange Parkway. Welsbach naphtha lamps have been installed along the driveways. Numerous complaints have been received about the speed of automobiles on the park roadways. The State law at present permits a speed of twenty-five miles through parks as along the driveways houses are further than 100 feet apart. But parkways are very different from country roads. They

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

a shaded place in which to rest and admire the fine view of the park which this spot commands. The side slopes of the driveways, the foot and bridle paths on the section between Elizabeth Avenue and the railroad have been topsoiled, and the roadway and path draining put in. The golf course has been alluded to above. This park with its large expanses of water, and fine lawn furnishes an ideal place for water fowl and for sheep and deer as well. At present there are 200 ducks, 8 swans and 12 geese at the lake. They furnish a constant source of amusement for the children and are not as often disturbed or injured as when first installed. Several miscreants have been arrested either for stealing the eggs or injuring the birds, and have been so severely dealt with by the courts that such annoyances are now rare. The flock of sheep, 20 of which were purchased in 1910, have increased to 59. A deer paddock has been constructed on the west side of the lake near the boat house. It is intended to transfer some of the fallow deer from South Mountain Reservation to this enclosure although the problem of catching the animals has not yet been satisfactorily solved. The herd at South Mountain which originally numbered 27 has greatly increased and as near as can be estimated now consists of about 200. This is too large a number for the present enclosure and plans for its reduction are being considered. It is hoped that some may be sold.

Plans for the improvement of Yanticaw Park in Nutley have been prepared and work will be begun as soon as weather conditions permit. The park will contain about twenty-five acres. The plans contemplate a driveway with parallel walks along the easterly bank of the Yanticaw River and running from Centre Street to Chestnut Street. In the low land adjoining the river will be constructed a lake of about two and one-half acres.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

vigilance, however, is necessary—especially in the spring, summer and fall. The careless discarding of a match or burning cigar or cigarette may cause damage which will take years to repair. The public is again urged to co-operate with the Board in the enforcement of the rule that no fires shall be made in the woods under any pretext, and great care taken not to carelessly discard matches or cigars and cigarettes. The natural enemies of the forest are hard enough to cope with, without in addition having to fight against the results of thoughtlessness or malice. During the coming season the Commission intends to pave Valley View Drive which runs along the easterly side of the Second Mountain between Northfield Road and South Orange Avenue a distance of over one mile. Roads throughout the reservation will be gradually opened and paved in order to make its beauties more accessible to the public without involving a very large expenditure in any one year. The boundaries of the reservation have been enlarged by the addition of about 7,726 acres on the corner of Glen Avenue and Brookside Drive. This property was essential in order to prevent the erection of buildings within park lines, and it carries the reservaton out to a boundary street and far enough over the crest of the Second Mountain at that point to prevent the erection of any structures which, were this not done, would seriously interfere with the sylvan beauty of the landscape. This reservation, which extends from Northfield Avenue to Glen Avenue and from the foot of the slope of the East to the crest of the West Mountain, will always remain as an example of what this country once was before the despoiling hand of civilization swept away much of its natural beauty. It is one of the greatest assets the County of Essex possesses, and it was not a costly one. The total cost of the 1,983.32 acres which it comprises

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

The hardy gardens at Branch Brook, Westside and Orange parks were rearranged and replanted last spring. Many of the flowers had become weak from old age and the stronger ones so overcrowded the beds that the color schemes were destroyed, and the rotation of bloom was interfered with. The large house at Riverbank Park which came into the control of the Board last year was torn down. It was at first thought it might be used as a field house and locker room but an examination by experts proved this to be impracticable and it was removed. The annual fall flower show at the Branch Brook Park greenhouses was as popular as in former years, thousands of persons visiting it daily. Its great popularity causes regret that there are no funds available to erect additions to the greenhouse system which would permit a series of exhibitions during the year of various kinds of flowers. The present houses are used for propagating the summer bedding plants needed in the various parks. They can not be spared for exhibition purposes except in the fall. In fact they are not large enough for such a purpose even now. The Board should have two or more larger greenhouses of ampler width and with much higher roofs so that palms, orchids and other tropical plants and flowers could be grown for the pleasure and instruction of the people.

Last year the Department of Agriculture at Washington forwarded to the Essex County Mosquito Extermination Commission some seeds of a South African plant which was said to have an odor so offensive to mosquitos that they would not go to any place where it grew. The Park Commission planted this seed in its greenhouses and while it has succeeded in raising a number of the plants, experiments have shown that it is of a decidedly tropical nature and succumbs to the slightest cold. Therefore even if it be as deadly to the mosquito as is claimed

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION. 1912.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1912.....		\$ 294,948 65
Received from Essex County.....	\$ 60,000 00	
Interest	5,207 58	
Sales	9,930 09	
		75,137 67
		\$ 370,086 32

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Yanticaw Park	\$ 16,800 00	
Weequahic Park	2,464 50	
Parkways	56 00	
		19,320 50

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$ 10,000 00	
Westside Park	45 00	
Watsessing Park	45,269 42	
Riverbank Park	1,525 20	
Glenfield Park	22,830 56	
Yanticaw Park	1,249 22	
Weequahic Park	15,142 00	
Eagle Rock Reservation	5,594 57	
Parkways	50,740 18	
		152,396 15

ITEMS.

Grading	\$ 169 65
Paving and Sewerage ...	46,674 05
Trees and Plants.....	3,560 18
Labor	84,058 51
Tools and Implements...	5,412 68
Gardening	163 60
Buildings and Bridges...	11,956 74
Fences and Fountains...	400 74
	\$ 152,396 15

OFFICE.

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,520 55	
Architects and Engineers.....	13,156 19	
		14,676 74
Cash on hand December 31st, 1912.....		183,692 93
		\$ 370,086 32

December 31, 1912.

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.

PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years 1911 and 1912.

	1911.			1912.		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook.....	24,275	20	1,214	19,765	16	1,235
Eastside	20,210	20	1,010	16,672	16	1,042
Westside	31,888	20	1,594	23,968	16	1,498
Orange	11,175	20	559	7,240	16	453
Watsessing	6,340	20	317	5,480	16	343
Riverbank Playground closed account con- struction work				8,540	16	534
Irvington Playground opened July 1, 1911.				3,295	16	206
	93,888	100	4,694	84,960	112	5,311
MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook.....	20,920	18	1,162	25,472	22	1,158
Eastside	16,665	18	926	20,324	22	924
Westside	38,367	18	2,131	36,410	22	1,655
Orange	22,485	18	1,249	25,090	22	1,140
Watsessing	5,760	18	320	7,040	22	320
Riverbank Playground closed account con- struction work				11,250	22	511
Irvington Playground opened July 1, 1911.				3,905	22	178
	104,197	90	5,788	129,491	154	5,886
MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook.....	50,010	22	2,274	57,860	26	2,225
Eastside	22,860	22	1,039	29,120	26	1,120
Westside	70,860	22	3,221	69,460	26	2,672
Orange	30,960	22	1,407	37,463	26	1,441
Watsessing	11,442	22	520	13,945	26	536
Riverbank	10,790	22	491	30,850	26	1,186
Irvington	29,360	22	1,335	20,670	26	795
Glenfield Playground opened July 1, 1912.				4,280	26	165
	226,282	154	10,287	263,648	208	10,140

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
	1911	1912	1911	1912
Branch Brook Park:				
Middle Division	9,511*	9,232*	3,960*	3,975*
Northern Division	4,626*	4,872*	489*	463*
Watessing Park	523*	432*	330*	286*
Weequahic Park	6,300*	5,310*	1,626*	1,152*
	20,999	19,846	6,405	5,875

	Tennis.		Cricket.	
	1911	1912	1911	1912
Branch Brook Park.....	5,675*	7,552*	662*	856*
Eastside Park	86*	236*		
Westside Park	1,372*	1,685*		
Orange Park	1,072*	880*		
Anderson Park	918*	1,128*	874*	248*
Weequahic Park	4,117*	4,834*		
Irvington Park		930*		
	13,240	17,245	1,536	1,104

* Players only.

	Roque.	
	1911	1912
Westside Park	304*	826*

* Players only.

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1911	1912
Branch Brook Park.....	76,245	47,900
Westside Park	4,074	3,256
Watessing Park	1,276	1,901
	81,595	53,057

WADING POOLS.

	1911	1912
Branch Brook Park.....	75,565	70,300
Westside Park	60,126	48,400
Orange Park	17,282	22,771
Overbrook Park	12,560	24,650
Weequahic Park	23,965	*
	189,497	166,121

* Wading Pool closed.

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REPORT
OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1913

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SSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S

Eighteenth Annual Report

OF THE

B O A R D O F
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1913

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS.

JOHN R. HARDIN.....	Term Expires	1914
FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	" "	1915
SANFORD ROSS.....	" "	1916
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	" "	1917
AMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	" "	1918

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

REPORT.

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
January 1st, 1914.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its Eighteenth Annual Report.

The Legislature of 1913 authorized the issuance of additional park bonds to the amount of \$525,000. This money was needed to complete several parks for which specific sums of money had been appropriated by various legislative acts, but which were found to be inadequate to complete the improvements contemplated. As stated in the last annual report, the Park Commission has not, since 1902, advocated the issuance of bonds for any additions to the park system. From time to time however, citizens interested in its extension, have prevailed upon the Legislature to pass bills permitting additions to the number of existing parks. These included the additions to Weequahic Park, Newark, Irvington Park, Irvington, and to Watsessing Park in Bloomfield and Yanticaw Park in Nutley. All these undertakings seemed to the Board wise and judicious, but in every case it was found that the sums appropriated were insufficient for the work contemplated and they remained for several years in an unfinished condition. The Commission felt that it would be unwise to allow such a state of affairs to continue longer. The land had all been acquired—thus taking it out of the County ratables, as park lands are not subject to taxation. At the same time the improvements were not complete enough to make the parks useable. Thus the people derived no benefit whatever from these lands, either as parks for public enjoyment or as revenue raising

taxable areas. This money, therefore, was asked for to complete park projects which the people themselves and not the Commission had initiated. By agreement between the Commission and the Board of Freeholders \$275,000. of the above appropriation was issued during this year, and \$250,000. will be issued in 1914. The bonds bear interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as it was found impossible to float them at 4 per cent.

It should be noted that the County's indebtedness in the matter of park making will now begin to decline. At present there are outstanding park bonds to the amount of \$6,235,000. Whenever an issue is floated a sinking fund is established by placing a certain sum in the tax levy each year for that purpose. This fund accumulates in such ratio as to pay off the bonds when they mature. The first issue of \$200,000. will fall due and be retired on August 1st, 1915, and thereafter successive issues will be cancelled until in 1926—or about eleven years—\$2,100,000. will have been paid, thus reducing the park bond indebtedness by one third.

The only new park established in 1913 was one in Caldwell, in obedience to an act of the Legislature of 1910 appropriating \$100,000. for this purpose. The Board hesitated for some time as to whether this locality really needed a park at all. It became convinced, however, that while the Caldwells and Essex Fells are now distinctly suburban in character and there is much open country—which is of itself a natural park—yet the territory west of the second mountain is developing so rapidly that unless acquired at the present time a park, if postponed for very many years, would be much more expensive and more difficult to locate. Another reason for delaying three years to obey the mandate of the Legislature was the difficulty of fixing on the site. The Board always seeks to satisfy the wishes of the municipalities in which the park is to be located if they meet the judgment of the

Commission and can be sustained by the opinion of the landscape architect. In this case two sites were presented for the Board's consideration. Each had attractive features and great park possibilities and each was championed by enthusiastic and determined supporters. The Commission held so many hearings and received so many delegations that it seemed as if the entire population of that neighborhood had appeared in person before it. All the municipal and civic bodies filed resolutions and recommendations. The Commissioners repeatedly visited in person the sites suggested, and Messrs Olmsted Brothers, the Board's landscape advisers, went over the ground very carefully and made an elaborate report. The tract which had their endorsement was finally selected. It lies partly in the Borough of Caldwell and partly in the Borough of Essex Fells. It contains about forty-five acres and extends along Brookside Avenue in the Boroughs of Caldwell and Essex Fells from Runnymede Road to a point very near the centre of Caldwell. The Board decided to name the new acquisition Grover Cleveland Park in honor of the former President of the United States who was born in Caldwell nearby. All the land has been acquired with the exception of one tract, at a cost of \$39,792.56. The plans for its improvement are not yet fully completed but will include playground facilities for the boys and girls as well as walks through the hemlock grove which is said to be the finest group of these stately trees in Essex County.

Another important acquirement made during this year was the quarry property at the end of the first mountain in Millburn. It was a wedge shaped tract of thirty-seven acres which ran up the mountain and about one thousand feet into South Mountain Reservation. The quarrying of the stone destroyed the beauty of the woodland and left an ugly scar upon the landscape. The Board had been anxious for some time to secure it and thus put a

stop to the destruction of natural scenery. The Legislature of 1913 authorized the necessary funds and the Commission was glad to be able thus to round out the boundaries of this reservation. The cost of the land was \$60,000. It contains some very fine trees, especially a group of large white oaks on the summit of the mountain near Washington Rock. Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, the landscape architects, prepared a plan at the request of the Commission for improving this tract with a view of partially screening the wide expanse of bare gray rock which the quarry work had laid open between the adjoining masses of green hillside. Their suggestion is to fill the interstices in the stone face and the ledges along the cliff with good soil and to plant therein such trees, shrubs and vines as would grow under such conditions. Among these would be dogwood, hornbeam, sumac, barberry, bitersweet, honeysuckle and woodbine, with native flowers such as ferns, hairbell, columbine and meadow sweet. At the base of the precipice large growing trees are to be planted such as white oak, tulip, red oak, maple, birch and pine. This will not of course entirely conceal the rocky surface but will mask it in such a way that glimpses of the rock through the surrounding green will not be unattractive but rather picturesque. The view of the cliff from the bottom is even in its present condition very impressive. It rises sheer from an almost level plane to a height of one hundred thirty-nine feet, and is crowned with some fine old oaks and pines. A spring near the summit adds to the attractive scenery, its tiny silver threads of water falling over the face of the cliff. It is said that on this eminence Washington stood during the Revolutionary War and watched the British Army in the plain below on its march between Newark and New Brunswick.

It has been a difficult matter to carry out safely the planting described above, as the workmen with their

tools, baskets of earth and the trees and shrubs for planting had to be lowered over the sheer precipice with ropes, and precautions taken that their support was not cut off by the sharp edges of the projecting rock.

The Board of Freeholders issued last July \$275,000. of the \$525,000. of park bonds spoken of above. Although it was late in the season to accomplish much, work was started as soon as funds were in hand and considerable progress was made. In the Weequahic Park Addition work was started at the Meeker Avenue end and carried on as long as weather conditions would permit. This is a tract of about fifty and one-half acres between the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Elizabeth Avenue. It includes Divident Hill on which on May 20, 1868, representatives of the Towns of Elizabeth and Newark met to agree on a boundary line between the two municipalities. The plan for the improvement has been slightly modified but in general includes the construction of a roadway and bridle path extending from Meeker Avenue to the bridge over the Lehigh Valley Railroad and connecting with the old portion of the park. It is the intention of the Board to confine the athletic fields to the older part of the park. However, there will be located on the addition a children's playground and wading pool. As no flower gardens have been laid out east of the railroad formal gardens have been provided for in this addition and located near Lyons Avenue. Work will be continued as early in 1914 as the Board of Freeholders turn over the balance of the appropriation. In the original park a golf course has been laid out. It was designed by Mr. George Low, professional of the Baltusrol Club, and consists of nine holes. The Commission regretted that it could not find room for one of eighteen holes; there was not sufficient land and it was deemed wiser to have an excellent nine hole course rather than a mediocre eighteen hole course. It is pro-

posed to erect a field house with locker accommodations, toilet facilities and a shower bath. It will be located near the first tee. The course should be ready for use next summer. This is probably the first instance of a municipal golf course in New Jersey, although there are many in other states, and the Board will watch with interest the attitude of the public toward it. Whether any other courses will be laid out in other parts of the system depends on the use of this one, its popularity and the disposition of the public to assist the Commission in maintaining it in a manner to give pleasure and satisfaction to those who use it.

The deer paddock near the boathouse—mentioned in the last report—has been stocked with deer from the larger preserve in South Mountain Reservation. It now contains twenty. A shelter has been erected in it for the protection of the animals. Weequahic is the park for animals and water fowl. In addition to the deer there is a flock of Dorset sheep which has grown from the original purchase of twenty to one hundred twenty-five. They make an attractive feature in the landscape as they wander over the greensward guarded by their shepherd and his faithful collie dog. The ducks have increased amazingly. They are chiefly Mallards and fly long distances across the park lake—nearly one mile long. Six Mandarin ducks were added to the collection during the year. They are tiny little fellows with dark brown coats and most brilliant green and red plumage around the neck and on the wings. The geese have increased by eight and, greatly to the satisfaction of the Board, it was able to raise three white swans. The black swans however, are childless still. The day before they would have hatched a brood of six, two boys stole a boat and went out to the float in the lake where the birds were nesting, drove them away from the nest and broke all the eggs, the cygnets dying immediately because too early

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

brought into the world. Such outrageous acts of malicious mischief discourage greatly those who attempt to add to the pleasure of the public by increasing the wild life in the lake. The black swan, moreover, is rare and valuable, a fine specimen selling for between \$35 and \$50. The Commission again appeals to the public to assist whenever possible in putting a stop to such occurrences. There is a large flock of pigeons that live at the park stables. The squirrels which were released in this park, however, have almost entirely disappeared. This seems curious, as those released at the same time in Branch Brook Park have rapidly increased in number and can be seen almost any day scampering over the grass or chasing one another along the boughs of the trees. The fishing at both Weequahic and Branch Brook was unusually good last season. The thanks of the community are due both to the United States Department of Fisheries and to the New Jersey State Fish and Game Commission, each of which sent considerable consignments of yellow perch and bass to be released in the lakes. The Board gave the Fish and Game Commission permission to use the pools in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park as places of refuge for smaller fish. The Game Wardens first removed all the larger fish and then put in the smaller ones, that they might in this way have a better chance of reaching maturity, removed from the menace of their natural enemies. In a few years, when they have attained their growth, the Fish Commission will remove them for distribution. Thus the park lakes serve as breeding places as well as for the pleasure of the sportsmen. The Board has also granted the use of two of the smaller lakes to the Essex County Mosquito Extermination Commission for the purpose of propagating gold fish—one of the most persistent enemies of the mosquito in its larvæ stage.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The construction work has been of course chiefly confined to the newer parks, or the additions to the older ones, as the older parks themselves have been finished for some years. The viaduct over the railroad at Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, having been completed by arrangement between the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, the Freeholders and the Town authorities, the Board has been able to finish the grading and planting of the northerly end of Glenfield Park. This practically completes this park. It was enjoyed last season by thousands—both on account of the picturesque walks in the little Glen and for the facilities it offers for playground sports, games and wading.

Work was resumed last Spring on the addition to Wat-sessing Park in Bloomfield. This land was given to the County by the Town which bonded itself for the purpose of acquiring it. It carries the park almost to the centre of Bloomfield and while it is separated from the remaining portion by the railroad it will be a valuable addition to this attractive pleasure ground. There is a viaduct under the railroad which connects the two divisions by a foot path. On this portion will be located the ball grounds, children's playground, sand court, shelter buildings and band stand. A concrete wading pool one hundred feet in diameter was built at the children's playground, and work on the field house and children's shelter has been commenced. The field house will be one hundred and twenty-three feet long by fifty-two feet wide. It will be of cement and brick construction, and will contain the shower baths, locker facilities, lavatories, etc. It is so planned that it can also be used as a comfort station. The children's shelter at the playground near Conger Street will be of a design in harmony with that of the field house. Its dimensions are fifty-two feet by thirty-two feet, and it will also contain lockers and lavatories. Next Spring the lawns will be seeded and the plantations fin-

ished and next year it is hoped this attractive playground may be in readiness for the use of the children.

Work at Yanticaw Park in Nutley was also vigorously pushed. The acquirement of land has been completed. In this connection it should be stated that the thanks of the Board and of the County are due the Bank of Nutley which presented to the Commission land situated on the corner of Elm and Chestnut Streets needed for the development of the park. The park comprises a valley sloping from Passaic Avenue to the Yanticaw River and rising again to Elm Street. The plan provides for dredging the low land which is now wet and marshy—an ideal habitat of the mosquito—and the construction of a lake of about two and one-half acres. This will do away with the present nuisance, add a most attractive feature to the landscape, and provide skating facilities in winter and perhaps—if the lake be deemed large enough—boating in summer. Owing to the delay in securing this portion of the property, work on the excavation has not yet been begun. It will be started in the Spring. This park will be one of unusual beauty, as from the eastern side near Passaic Avenue one will be able to look across the little lake in the foreground, at the attractive town common with distant views of the Orange Mountains as a background. The grading of the balance of the land has been completed and about six and one-half acres have been seeded. The planting of the park will be undertaken in the Spring so that it may fairly be assumed that in the next report the Commission may be able to catalogue Yanticaw as among the finished parks.

The reservations continue to delight the visitor with their beautiful stretches of hillside and valley and woodland and their views into the woods themselves, and out over the thickly populated landscape at the foot of the Orange Mountain. No elaborate improvements have been or will be attempted here as the intention of the

Commission is to keep nature in her original setting and as much as possible to recreate the scenery as it was before the hand of man despoiled it. The trees are carefully forestered every year under the guidance of experts, and those that have to be removed on accounts of defects or disease are sold as cord wood to help defray the cost. Mr. Alfred Gaskil, the State Forester, has very courteously consented to pay several visits to Essex County and to give this Commission the benefit of his great experience without remuneration. The Board has appreciated and benefitted by his valuable advice. The Commission has continued its policy of re-introducing such native trees and shrubs as had become extinct. Eight thousand Austrian pines, 6,000 Scotch pines and 5,000 spruce have been set out; also beeches, oaks and other trees not yet attacked by insect pests—these to take the place of the chestnuts which are practically extinct and the hickories which are also disappearing. These trees are taken from the park nurseries located at South Mountain Reservation. About 5,000 rhododendrons have also been planted. They are the native variety and add their floral splendor to that of the mountain laurel and azalea which now beautify the woods in May and June. Hemlocks also have been planted—especially about Hemlock Falls—where a disastrous fire a few years ago caused by the careless discarding of a lighted cigar, killed eight fine old specimens nearly one hundred years old. It is gratifying to note that the hemlocks are now spreading naturally. Even at the risk of being criticised for repetition, the Board cannot refrain from again urging the public to assist it in protecting these woodlands from fire. No fires are allowed in them on any account whatever. Visitors would render a service to the County if they would report to the park police any infraction of this rule. Great care should also be taken in regard to matches, cigars and cigarettes which should not be thrown away burning, and

if seen in the woods or roadway burning should be at once extinguished and care taken that the fire has not spread. Fire is the worst enemy of the forest, and one match or lighted cigar thrown among inflammable material may do damage that it will take many years to repair. For example, it will take at least sixty years to reproduce at Hemlock Falls the trees that a few years ago were destroyed in one hour. The last few summers have been very dry, thus increasing materially this danger and necessitating the employment of additional guards to search for and stamp out conflagrations. The drought also made it necessary to plough up several large areas of lawn at Branch Brook Park and refertilize them. They will be reseeded next Spring. It is very difficult, however, to properly maintain lawns in this climate without watering. This the Board cannot do as the Commission is required to pay the various municipalities for all water used, and the amount of maintenance money now received would be insufficient to justify this expense in addition to the other annual expenses. At Eagle Rock Reservation an asphalt concrete foot path was constructed between Eagle Rock Avenue and the Casino. The cost of grading, curbing and paving was \$1,726.12. Next Spring it is proposed to plant in the vicinity of the Casino rhododendrons, evergreens and deciduous shrubs. At South Mountain Reservation the paving of Valley View Drive was completed. The pavement is asphalt macadam. Twelve thousand five hundred and sixty yards were laid at a cost of \$10,259.24. These are not intended to formalize the reservations, but only to make their natural beauties more accessible to the public. It is hoped that the Board can gradually extend its system of macadam drives in order that those who use the automobile may be able in safety to view the beauties of those roads which are now used only by the pedestrian or the carriage.

.....	\$3,079.81
.....	17,252.83
.....	\$43,332.64

the Commission has conducted a special pleasure drive about the city extending from Newark at Bloomfield through Brook Park, passing the Hudson River at the foot of the city was for the pleasure of

all the residents of the County—the first real parkway of any considerable length within its limits—the Board thought the roadway should be paid for with County funds. Therefore, no assessment was levied for it on the abutting owners, and, as the County at large had paid the bill, and as the money was expended for a pleasure drive, it was decided to exclude business trucks from the Avenue. This resolution caused some criticism and complaint. The Board, however, is still of the opinion that its action was wise and proper. It is impossible to construct a pavement smooth enough for pleasure traffic which will long withstand the wear and tear of loaded trucks and heavy wagons. A business street and a boulevard cannot be one and the same. The pursuit of happiness according to the Declaration of Independence is one of the inalienable rights of man, and certainly is as proper within sane limits as the pursuit of business. It does not seem unreasonable, therefore, that one driveway—out of the many that connect Newark with the Oranges—should be reserved for those who desire a pleasant ride along a reasonably smooth pavement unspoiled by the ruts of heavy trucks. The Board believes this decision meets the approval of the majority of its constituency. However, another criticism was levelled at the Avenue. The Board was informed that the roadway was too smooth. The work of constructing a boulevard had been overdone. Horses slipped and fell constantly it was alleged, and the protectors of the poor dumb animal demanded an investigation. It was made at once and policemen were stationed along the Avenue to take a census of accidents, which it was alleged occurred daily. The following, quoted from the Superintendent's report, shows that statements can sometimes, even with the best intentions, be exaggerated:

"The census covered a period of thirteen days, which included two Sundays.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

The records were taken by members of the Park Police force between the hours of 8.30 to 12.00 and from 1.30 to 5.30.

The officers were stationed at Clifton Avenue, Newark, Prospect Street, East Orange, and Mount Vernon Avenue, Orange. These points are at the steep hills where traveling would be the most difficult.

A summary of the traffic is as follows:

1 Horse Vehicles	5,813
2 Horse Vehicles	1,316
Automobiles	13,251
Motor Delivery Wagons	1,549

While it is likely that some of these vehicles were reported by each of the three officers, I believe the triple counting would be more than offset by the vehicles entering and leaving the Avenue between the points where the officers were stationed.

During the thirteen days covered by the record, seventy-five horses slipped and six fell. That is to say, one horse in one hundred and twelve slipped and one in fourteen hundred and seven fell. This is not a large number for any pavement on slippery days. Of these, nineteen were sharp shod and sixty-two had smooth shoes.

Of the six horses falling, four fell when the pavement was covered with wet snow. On the same day twenty-one horses slipped.

Of these twenty-five horses, five were sharp shod and twenty were smooth. Of the six horses falling, three had smooth shoes and three sharp.

Four horses fell on the Clifton Avenue hill and two on the hill west of Mount Vernon Avenue.

From our investigations, I have reached the conclusion that much of the difficulty experienced by horsemen on pavements of the character of Park Avenue is

from one of the following causes: First, carelessness on the part of the driver; second, improper shoeing; third, in horses not being accustomed to pavements with a smooth surface."

The earliest thoughts of a comprehensive system of county parks were likewise of parkways as a necessary part of a full and final park system. Such a scheme in its well rounded out completeness is an evolution, not a creation, and so quite naturally we find in one of the first reports of this Commission the expectation that "a system of parkways is to form the final feature of park development."

Realizing that in the development of any scheme comprehensive plans should be agreed upon in advance, in order that all the work to follow should move along intelligently towards the ultimate completion of a harmonious whole, the Commission had plans made for a system of county parkways. In its second annual report (1897) the Commission clearly stated its views regarding parkways, as follows:

"To unify the various features described, a system of parkways has been determined upon. These serve not only as connecting links, but are for the use and pleasure of that large and rapidly growing portion of the community which seeks its enjoyment in driving and cycling, and which is entitled to the same consideration as the class that use only the parks."

To-day the free use of the automobile takes more people upon the public roads than was thought of at the time of writing that report, and the need is already apparent for an adequate system of parkways for the public enjoyment.

At the same time the Commission included a report of its landscape architects, Messrs. Bogert and Barrett, dated December 22, 1897, in the course of which they make the following reference to parkways:

"These parkways will ultimately be the connecting lines between the parks and the residences of the people. They should really be bits of parks, inviting in themselves and having attractions for neighborhood use. They must accommodate pleasure travel in carriage, in bicycles, and on foot. They must have shade and grass and occasional shrubbery. They are the arms and branches of the whole system, giving pleasant access to the parks and forming attractive ways of passage through the county.

"Their location, construction and maintenance will improve and appreciate the value of all property along their routes."

A tentative plan included in the report showed a parkway emerging from Weequahic Park, at the extreme south end of the county, running past Westside Park, through Irvington, Vailsburgh, East Orange, Bloomfield and Nutley, to the Passaic River at the extreme north end of the county; thence south along Passaic River and through Belleville to Branch Brook Park. Another parkway emerging from Branch Brook Park ran through Bloomfield and Montclair to the Orange Mountains at Eagle Rock.

The East Orange Parkway extending from Central Avenue to Park Avenue is the only portion of this system thus far constructed. It was finished in 1910 at a cost of \$81,795.69 for land and \$129,880.88 for improvements.

The Commission found that the demand for neighborhood parks and playgrounds in different sections of the County were so numerous, and were so deserving of precedence over parkways as an immediate consideration, that it felt compelled to postpone further thought of the latter until some time in the rather distant future; especially in view of the high cost for property and construction of a system of parkways, and the fact that the necessary cost for property and construction of parks

would be as large an investment as the people of the County would care to assume at that time.

In the intervening ten years, however, the growth of the population has been very great, and the increase of wealth and property values in the County has been such that to-day the entire investment in the splendid system of parks and forest reservations of this County represents only about one per cent. of the value of the county ratables. Also, in the meantime, there has been such an increase in the use of the public roads for pleasure driving that citizens are urging that the time has arrived when serious consideration should be given to a comprehensive parkway scheme, and every report on city planning and all thought on municipal development along broad lines are in accord as to the advisability of adequate parkways.

The main avenues radiating out from the City of Newark, such as Clinton, Springfield, South Orange, Central, Park, and Bloomfield, were admirably planned for travel, and for trolley transportation; but, while so excellently suited to commercial traffic, they are not well adapted to pleasure driving or walking. Park Avenue in its present treatment is an illustration of probably the best that can be done with a city street, and while it has been made attractive it is far from being a parkway in any sense that is properly covered by such a designation.

There are no streets traversing the County north and south that are at all comparable with the avenues above mentioned.

Appreciating the growing and, in fact, immediate need of parkways, the public desire for opportunity to discuss and pass upon a plan, and the improvement in the County's financial ability to undertake such an improvement, the present Commission feels that it is its duty to have prepared a plan for parkways so comprehensive as to meet the future needs of the entire County in order that

the public may have the opportunity for intelligent study and discussion of the subject, not with the thought that any plan in its entirety should be carried out at once, but as opportunity may offer or occasion may demand that some section of parkway be constructed it shall be done, not as an isolated piece but rather as a part of one great harmonious design; also, appreciating that in the interval since 1897 conditions have so changed that the original plans are no longer adequate to all the requirements, this Commission is having its landscape architects, Messrs. Olmsted Brothers, make a thorough study of the subject in detail on the ground for the purpose of preparing plans upon broad lines, providing a system of parkways that will be an added beauty to the County and a source of pleasure and of pride to its citizens.

The landscape architects will require considerable time for the careful study of so important a matter in all its details, followed by formal plans, together with all the arguments to justify them. It should not be unduly hurried. The Commission takes this opportunity of informing the public of its attitude toward this question and what it is doing.

It is easy to describe exactly the items of park construction, or to discuss and explain questions of general policy. It is, however, more difficult to give a comprehensive idea of the value to the people of the finished parks and their large and constantly increasing use. Aside from the attendance at the playgrounds and athletic fields, there are thousands who fish or row or canoe. Picnickers use the parks and reservations constantly. The Road Horse Association of the County holds exhibitions of horse racing therein. Various civic and military organizations drill; the ice is covered with skaters in winter and the municipal authorities have their celebrations on Fourth of July and other holidays. Besides all these is the vast uncounted throng who ride or drive

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

or walk through the paths and parkways and enjoy the fresh air and the attractive glimpses of nature. To appreciate this phase of the usefulness and delight of the park system one must go out into it and look about him.

Again the Board is compelled to report two drowning accidents at Branch Brook Park, and again the investigation showed them to be the result of carelessness and neglect of the rules. In one instance a man and his granddaughter went out upon the lake and leaning over the side of the boat, upset it. Both were brought alive to the shore by the policeman who patrols the lake. The man was saved, but the child died two hours after at the hospital. In the other case a man and a woman upset a boat in almost the same manner, by leaning over the side. Both were taken out of the water alive but the woman died. In addition to all the other precautions hitherto adopted, the Commission has installed a pulmotor at Branch Brook Park and one at Weequahic Park and has caused the park policemen to be instructed in its use. The Commission has directed also that motors be installed in all police boats so that the officers in case of accident may reach the place more quickly and not exhausted by hard rowing, thus saving their strength for diving or swimming or struggling with the drowning. At both lakes boats equipped with oars are tied to posts by the shore ready in case of accident for use by anyone. Life preservers are placed at intervals along the shore. Every park policeman must be an expert swimmer, and is given weekly practice every summer together with lessons as to rescuing and resuscitating the drowning. The Commission has done its utmost, therefore, to prevent accidents, but they will continue to occur unless the public will carefully obey the rules as to boating which are made solely for their protection.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

The report of the Treasurer and the statistics regarding playground attendance are hereto appended.

Very respectfully,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1913**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION, 1913.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1913		\$ 183,692 93
Received from Essex County	\$ 374,515 96	
Interest	3,634 02	
Sales	4,880 08	
	<u>383,030 06</u>	
		<u>\$ 566,722 99</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Watsessing Park	\$ 6,440 00	
Anderson Park	3,600 00	
Yanticaw Park	16,373 52	
Grover Cleveland Park	38,782 33	
South Mountain Reservation	72,428 00	
Parkways	620 00	
	<u>138,243 85</u>	

CONSTRUCTION.

Branch Brook Park	375 00	
Watsessing Park	47,239 48	
Riverbank Park	790 34	
Glenfield Park	3,785 09	
Yanticaw Park	24,468 59	
Grover Cleveland Park	2,226 57	
Weequahic Park	7,366 37	
Eagle Rock Reservation	150 00	
Park Avenue	75,338 58	
	<u>161,740 02</u>	

ITEMS.

Grading	\$ 193 60
Paving and Sewerage	56,843 75
Trees and Plants	5,373 18
Labor	92,848 98
Tools and Implements	2,800 04
Buildings and Bridges	1,506 88
Fences and Fountains	2,173 59

\$ 161,740 02

OFFICE.

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,884 45	
Architects and Engineers	17,397 52	
	<u>19,281 97</u>	
Cash on hand December 31, 1913		247,457 15
		<u>\$ 566,722 99</u>

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE, 1913.

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1913		\$ 466 18
Received from Essex County	\$ 260,000 00	
Rents	5,364 27	
Interest	2,475 95	
Miscellaneous	4,942 36	
	<u>272,782 58</u>	
		<u>\$ 273,248 76</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park	\$ 81,038 94	
Eastside Park	8,924 65	
Westside Park	12,498 07	
Orange Park	11,812 61	
Watsessing Park	6,517 69	
Anderson Park	3,471 05	
Glenfield Park	8,690 37	
Riverbank Park	6,120 69	
Irvington Park	5,871 24	
Grover Cleveland Park	12 72	
Weequahic Park	39,266 92	
Eagle Rock Reservation	11,119 76	
South Mountain Reservation	35,703 75	
East Orange Parkway	5,075 79	
Park Avenue	12,367 26	
Prospect Avenue	2,413 81	
	<u>250,905 32</u>	

ITEMS.

Police	\$ 46,250 99
Wages	122,854 98
Tools and Supplies ..	81,799 35

\$ 250,905 32

OFFICE.

Petty Cash	\$ 50 00	
Traveling	492 65	
Stationery and Printing	2,471 08	
Office Supplies	1,694 37	
Salaries	14,004 73	
Rents and Telephones	3,282 81	
	<u>21,995 64</u>	

Cash on hand December 31, 1913 347 80

\$ 273,248 76

JOHN R. HARDIN,
Treasurer.

DECEMBER 31, 1913.

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments. I find all items correctly stated.

**RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.**

**STATISTICAL
T A B L E S**

PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years of 1912 and 1913.

	1912.			1913.		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook	19,765	16	1,235	25,665	23	1,115
Eastside	16,672	16	1,042	34,800	23	1,513
Westside	23,968	16	1,498	36,835	23	1,602
Orange	7,240	16	453	13,489	23	586
Watsessing	5,480	16	343	9,389	23	408
Riverbank	8,540	16	534	15,765	23	685
Irvington	3,295	16	206	Opened July 1, 1913		
Glenfield	Opened July 1, 1912			10,463	23	455
	84,960	112	5,311	146,406	161	6,364
MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook	25,472	22	1,158	26,240	25	1,049
Eastside	20,324	22	924	37,330	25	1,493
Westside	36,410	22	1,655	48,372	25	1,935
Orange	25,090	22	1,140	25,455	25	1,018
Watsessing	7,040	22	320	11,985	25	479
Riverbank	11,250	22	511	18,875	25	755
Irvington	3,905	22	178	Opened July 1, 1913		
Glenfield	Opened July 1, 1912			12,424	25	493
	129,491	154	5,886	180,681	175	7,222
MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook	57,860	26	2,225	48,505	26	1,865
Eastside	29,120	26	1,120	44,295	26	1,704
Westside	69,460	26	2,672	61,435	26	2,363
Orange	37,463	26	1,441	45,164	26	1,737
Watsessing	13,945	26	536	18,011	26	693
Riverbank	30,850	26	1,186	49,067	26	1,887
Irvington	20,670	26	795	9,257	26	356
Glenfield	4,280	26	165	19,032	26	732
	263,648	208	10,140	294,766	208	11,337

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

	1912.			1913.		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF AUGUST.						
Branch Brook	64,255	25	2,570	54,840	25	2,184
Eastside	25,575	25	1,023	44,079	25	1,763
Westside	63,120	25	2,525	57,658	25	2,306
Orange	37,581	25	1,503	35,184	25	1,407
Watsessing	17,655	25	706	18,731	25	749
Riverbank	29,850	25	1,194	36,598	25	1,464
Irvington	10,660	25	426	8,760	25	350
Glenfield	8,699	25	348	23,025	25	921
	257,395	200	10,295	278,875	200	11,144

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.						
Branch Brook	27,810	19	1,464	26,740	21	1,273
Eastside	11,995	19	631	22,775	21	1,085
Westside	33,075	19	1,741	30,049	21	1,431
Orange	14,265	19	751	8,437	21	402
Watsessing	4,625	19	243	5,292	21	252
Riverbank	13,750	19	724	15,145	21	721
Irvington	8,475	19	446	3,675	21	175
Glenfield	4,434	19	233	6,328	21	301
	118,429	152	6,233	118,441	168	5,640

MONTH OF OCTOBER.						
Branch Brook	4,950	11	450	8,675	20	434
Eastside	4,650	11	423	2,740	10	274
Westside	3,070	11	279	4,230	20	211
Orange	3,085	11	280	2,500	15	166
Watsessing	1,475	11	134	2,315	19	122
Riverbank	2,430	11	221	1,281	12	107
Irvington	1,628	11	148	1,875	15	125
Glenfield	1,730	11	157	5,370	20	268
	23,018	88	2,092	28,986	131	1,707

After October 1, 1913, playground instruction was discontinued, but the playgrounds were open under the supervision of park attendants and matrons.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.		
	1912	1913	1912	1913	
	Players	Players	Attend.	Players	Attend.
Branch Brook:					
Middle Div...	9,232	9,786	129,051	3,975	2,682
Northern Div.	4,872	5,016	37,210	462	415
Watsessing	432	904	11,025	286	264
Weequahic	5,310	4,378	48,400	1,152	1,672
Irvington		948	3,825		1,475
	<u>19,846</u>	<u>21,032</u>	<u>229,511</u>	<u>5,875</u>	<u>6,508</u>
					<u>22,020</u>

	Tennis.		Croquet.	
	1912	1913	1912	1913
	Players	Players	Players	Players
Branch Brook	7,552	11,115	662	
Eastside	236	573		
Westside	1,685	3,304		
Orange	880	254		
Anderson	1,128	1,504		
Weequahic	4,834	4,755		
Irvington	930	2,733		
	<u>17,245</u>	<u>24,238</u>	<u>662</u>	

	Roque.	
	1912	1913
	Players	Players
Westside	826	736

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

	1912	1913
Branch Brook Park	47,900	10,245
Westside Park	3,256	3,757
Watsessing Park	1,901	1,963
Eastside		1,422
Irvington		954
	<u>53,057</u>	<u>18,341</u>

WADING POOLS.

	1912	1913
Branch Brook Park	70,300	102,240
Westside Park	48,400	69,720
Orange Park	22,771	25,424
Riverbank Park	24,650	29,965
Glenfield Park		7,056
	<u>166,121</u>	<u>234,405</u>

REPORT

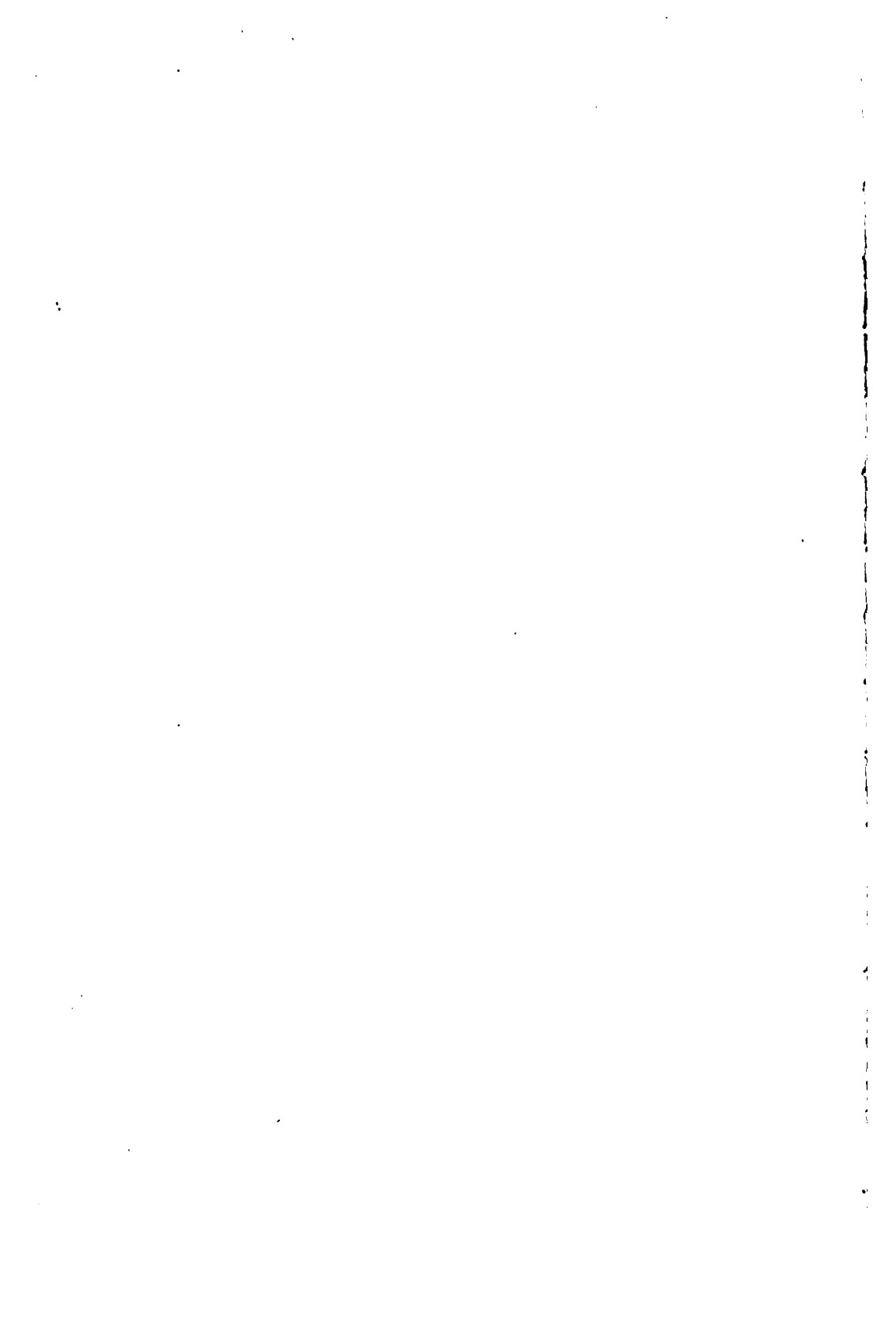
OF THE

PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY

1914





ERECTED IN THE EAST ORANGE PARKWAY BY THE CITIZENS
OF EAST ORANGE. SCULPTOR, FRANK EDWIN ELWELL.

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Nineteenth Annual Report

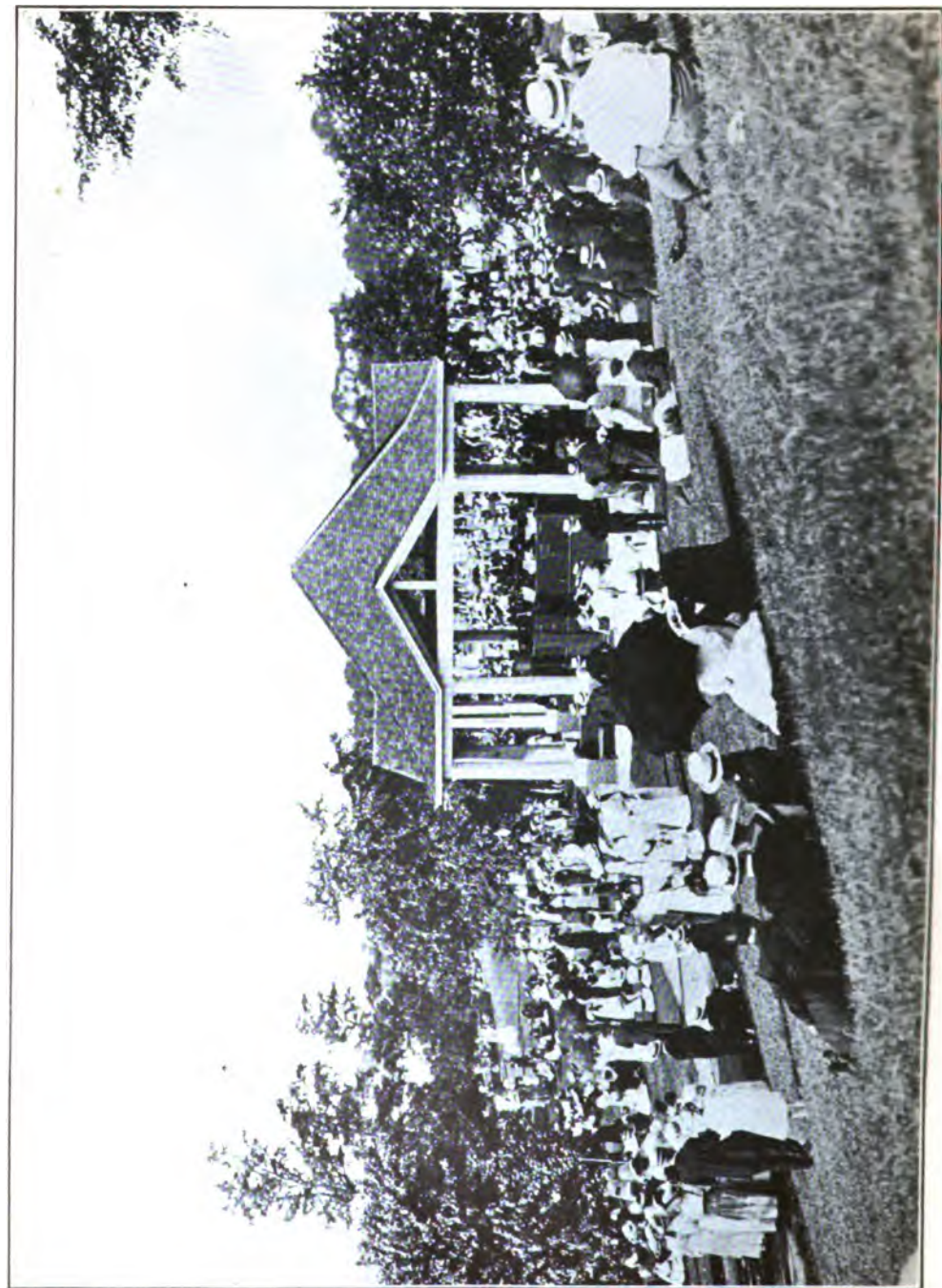
OF THE

B O A R D O F
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1914

BAKER PRINTING CO.
Newark, N. J.



HAND CONCERT. WHEELER PARK.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	Term Expires	1915
P. SANFORD ROSS.....	“ “	1916
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	“ “	1917
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	“ “	1918
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	“ “	1919

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

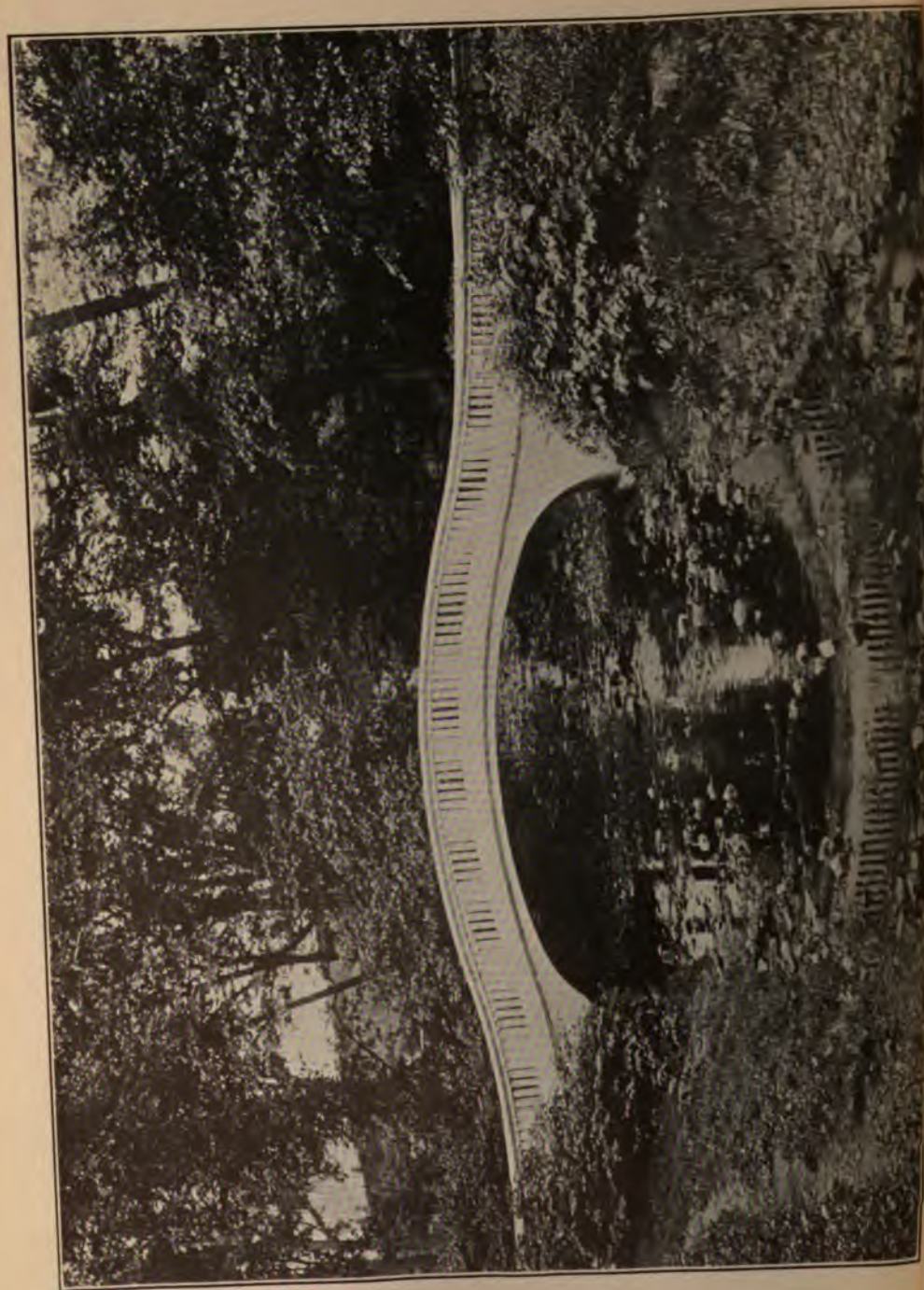
JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.



REPORT.

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

JANUARY 1st, 1915.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its nineteenth annual report.

The Legislature of 1912 authorized the issuance of \$450,000 of additional park bonds; \$250,000 of the amount was intended for the purchase and improvement of the block of land between Sixteenth and Eighteenth Avenues and Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, in Newark, as an addition to Westside Park. The reasons for this acquisition are thus set forth in the report of 1912:

"There are many reasons which make it desirable to add to Westside Park the block bounded by Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets and Sixteenth and Eighteenth Avenues. When the park was constructed in 1897 it was thought that its twenty-three acres would be ample to meet the needs of the surrounding population. The rapid growth of the city in that direction, however, has so built up the neighborhood that the playgrounds are already too small for the thousands of boys and girls who crowd them all summer long. The block in question is a portion of what was known as Magnolia Swamp, an apparently bottomless bog. It is almost impossible to erect on it any buildings which will maintain their equilibrium and most of them gradually settle into the swamp. The City of Newark through its Building Department and Board of Works urged the Commission to acquire the land and thus prevent further danger along this line. Should the money be forthcoming the City of Newark has agreed to

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

close Fourteenth Street, thus uniting the new section with the old park; and the Board will transfer the playgrounds to the new area and considerably enlarge them. This acquirement would add 8.3 acres to the park area."

One hundred thousand dollars was for a park in Belleville and the remaining \$100,000 was for the acquisition of Verona Lake as an addition to the park system. Owing to the impossibility of floating bonds at the interest rate of 4 per cent.—the limit placed in the bills, the Board of Chosen Freeholders was unable to secure the money. The Legislature of 1914 therefore repealed these acts. In their place was passed a bill in the same amounts and for the same purposes with an interest rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. An additional amount of \$100,000 was inserted to provide for the erection of a new Administration Building at Branch Brook Park. This improvement has been greatly needed for many years. Ever since the establishment of the Park



PARK AVENUE.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Commission in 1895 the offices of the Superintendent, Engineers, Police and Playground employes has been an old wooden building at 60 Clifton Avenue, which before its acquisition by the Board had for many years been a saloon and dance hall. The absence of any fireproof protection to the valuable engineering records and maps was a constant menace, which increased as the years went by and made their reproduction more and more difficult. The building moreover was entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the constantly growing park system and was most inconveniently arranged. It is planned to erect the new building on the small strip of land running east of Clifton Avenue opposite the new Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and the entrance to Branch Brook Park.

The site at Clifton, Sixth and Mt. Prospect Avenues slopes about sixteen feet from front to rear. By placing the building within eighteen feet of the rear line and filling in from the front of the building to Clifton Avenue a high and well-lighted basement story is secured for garage and work shop, bicycle room for the Park police, a Receiving Room, paint and oil storage, storage of heavy supplies and a work shop for the repair of playground apparatus.

The service entrance is in this basement entered from Mt. Prospect Avenue.

The filled-in space between the front of the building and Clifton Avenue is treated as a formal garden through which the public passes to the main entrance on the first floor.

The northerly portion of this floor is assigned to the Police Department with a special entrance toward Sixth Avenue. Offices are provided for the Chief, Sergeant and Desk Sergeant and a large assembly room for the men with locker room and toilet.

On the southwesterly corner on this floor is a large room for the Board with an ante-room and toilet. The balance

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T



BRIDLE PATH AND WALK, WEEQUAHIC PARK.

of the floor is arranged as offices for the Forester, the General Foreman and Playground Supervisor, and suitable toilet accommodations for male and female employes.

The general office is on the second floor, its entrance plainly visible from the entrance hall which is two stories in height. It connects at its southerly end with the office of the Superintendent on the southwest corner and with his assistant on the southeast, as well as with the service stairs. The draughting room and map room are on the northerly end, with a pleasant lunch room for employes nearby convenient to the general office also.

The northerly end of the attic story connects by a staircase with the draughting room, and is divided into blueprint room and testing laboratory. The southerly end is

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

arranged as janitor's quarters and the balance of the space is devoted to storage for light supplies. A hand-lift connects the receiving room in the basement with the storage rooms and with the other floors.

The interior finish is extremely simple, and good proportion and color are depended upon for effect rather than elaborate detail. The building is fireproof throughout, the floors and base generally of cement.

The exterior is Italian in character of brick and terra cotta, with a painted frieze just under the strongly projecting eaves and with a tile roof. The architect is H. Van Buren Magonigle, of New York. The new building will be a decided architectural addition to the park and the surrounding neighborhood, and the removal of



VIEW IN WATSESSING PARK.



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

the old building will increase the usable area of Branch Brook Park considerably. It will also do away with a most unsightly blot on the beautiful landscape into which it intrudes with unusual harshness. It is hoped that when this building is demolished arrangements can be made with the City of Newark whereby the Commission can secure and remove the old brick structure which was formerly used by the Water Department in connection with the Clifton Avenue Reservoir. When the City of Newark transferred to the Park Board in 1895 the tract of land which now forms a large part of the Southern Division—about eighty acres in extent—it reserved this building and a tract of land adjoining about 100 by 150 feet. This was necessary as the building was then in use. Owing to changes and improvements in the city water system, it



PLAYING UNDER THE TREES, ORANGE PARK.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

is no longer necessary, and it, too, is a blot on the landscape with its tall chimney and high walls, which cannot be entirely screened from the view of those within the park. The removal of these buildings will greatly improve the park, and it is hoped will not be long delayed. In this connection it should be said that it is a matter of regret to this Board, that the fountain in the reservoir in Branch Brook Park has been practically abandoned by the Water Department. It was installed by the Commission at an expense of about \$2,000, with the understanding that the Water Department would furnish enough water to operate it at least on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It was a great attraction to thousands of visitors, and when running at its full capacity was said to be one of the largest,



THE NINTH GREEN, WEEQUAHIC PARK GOLF COURSE.



THE NEW FIELD HOUSE, WATSESSING PARK.

if not the largest, fountains in the world. No water was wasted as it fell back into the reservoir, and the water was purified by aeration. In view of its great attraction for so many it is hoped that the authorities of Newark can make some arrangements looking to its permanent continuance on economical lines. In addition to the sums above mentioned the Legislature passed another act authorizing another issue of \$100,000 of bonds. The money, the Commission understands, is to supplement the other authorization of \$100,000 for the Verona Lake project. It should be stated that the Park Commission has made no request on the Board of Freeholders for the issuance of this \$200,000 and has not in any way committed itself to a park in Verona. Moreover, the bills were passed without its knowledge. The Commission, however, did ask the Freeholders for the money for the Belleville Park, the Westside Park Addition and the new Adminis-

tration Building. The Freeholders took no action thereon last year, but have given this Board assurances that the bonds will be sold during 1915. As soon as the Commission is in possession of the funds it will at once proceed with the improvements.

During the past year the Board gave permission to the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the City of Newark to lay a thirty-six-inch water main through the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park. The pipe crosses the canal between Sixth and Seventh Avenues and follows the driveway to a point near the boat house and thence follows the foot path to Clifton and Eighth Avenues. The work is to be done during the winter months so that the public may be put to the least possible inconvenience, and the cost will be defrayed by the City. Permission was given in order that the City might not be compelled to acquire expensive rights of way over private property, and to shorten the route of the pipe line materially, and was in accordance with the policy of this Commission to coöperate wherever possible with other municipal authorities. The saving to the City by the granting of this permission is estimated at \$10,000. The canoe sheds at this park are not large enough to accommodate the ever-increasing number of those who wish to avail themselves of this popular recreation. They have therefore been rearranged with a view of securing more storage space and of insuring greater convenience for those who use them. A portion of the upper veranda at the Boat House has been roofed over so that those who desire to do so may find comfortable resting places protected from the summer sun from which they may get pleasant vistas of the lake, and watch the boats and canoes which dot its sparkling surface.

The playground at Orange Park is one of the most popular in the system, as it is ideally located in a fine grove of trees near the lake. Its increased use—and that too in

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

spite of the establishment by the City of Orange of a municipal playground—made an enlargement of the shelter necessary. It will not be long, however, before a still larger and more complete building will have to be provided in place of the present one. Check boxes and locker spaces were provided in the central room. Shower baths and additional toilets were added, and the front of the building was improved and remodeled. It has greatly increased the accommodations for the children, and its cost was \$1,393.69.

The work at Watsessing Park was practically completed last season, and in the summer of 1915 nearly the entire area will be thrown open to the use of the public. This park had its beginning in the generous gift by the City of East Orange of the old City Disposal Works—about



FUN IN THE WATER, ORANGE PARK.



twelve acres in extent. This area was increased from time to time by legislative appropriation, and by the generosity of the Town of Bloomfield, which bonded itself to the amount of \$30,000 in order to secure further park area. It is intersected by Glenwood Avenue and the D., L. & W. R. R., but its total area is about seventy acres. In the older part lying chiefly in East Orange, are play fields and tennis courts. The Second River runs through the park, and a wooded knoll on the western boundary adds greatly to its picturesqueness. The newly completed section between Glenwood and Bloomfield Avenues, on both sides of the D., L. & W. R. R., can now be classed with the finished parks. The cost of the improvements here is about \$168,265.00.

Yanticaw Park is another recent addition to the system. It is situated very nearly in the centre of the Town of Nutley. It slopes down from Passaic Avenue to the Third River, where a lake of about two and one-half acres has been developed by a dam across the stream and some necessary dredging. Work here has been pushed vigorously, the lake excavation is completed and most of the planting done. The material excavated from the lake was hauled to a point north of Centre Street, and used as filling for the children's playground.

This park contains a driveway running from Centre Street to Chestnut Street. On the easterly side of the driveway are located the tennis courts and baseball fields. A field house for use of both grounds will be constructed at a point convenient to both.

The children's playground will contain a wading pool, sand court, and the usual playground apparatus. The land cost \$73,066.02, and the improvements to date \$69,044.97.

The land for Grover Cleveland Park in Caldwell having all been obtained, the Commission is preparing plans for its improvement which will be carried out next season.



THE HEAD OF THE LAKE, WEEQUAHIC PARK.

This park contains 41.48 acres and the plans for its development have been so designed as to make a large portion of the area usable for recreative purposes. Besides the usual lawns, walks, and plantations, the park will contain tennis courts, which will be located along Brookside Avenue; baseball fields, and a children's playground with sand court, wading pool, and playground apparatus. A shelter house will be erected at a point convenient to the tennis courts, children's playground, and baseball field.

It is proposed to so grade a portion south of Runnymede Road that it may be flooded for skating. On account of the shallow depth of the water in the flooded area, ice will form very much more quickly than on a pond of greater depth, and it will also provide a perfectly safe place for this sport.

The hemlock grove which is located near Runnymede Road, and which is considered the finest grove of hemlocks in the county, will be made more accessible to the public by constructing a foot path along the brow of the hill, meeting with the other paths running through the park. This tract is about 8.39 acres in extent.

The addition to Irvington Park was improved last season, and will be planted next spring. It is laid out in simple lines with ball fields and tennis courts scattered over the broad lawns which slope to the west from Grove to Augusta Streets. The Commission proposes to erect a field house here. It will also sink a driven well to supply the wading pool with water. The surface water which formerly supplied the pool became so polluted that it has not been thought wise to open it to the children for the past two years. With its own supply of pure water the Board will again be able to furnish this means of pleasure to thousands of youngsters within another year.

Work on the Weequahic Park Addition was carried on until the advent of cold weather and will be begun again in the spring. The treatment is simple, consisting of a roadway, bridle path and walks. There has been erected on Elizabeth Avenue a small shelter house for the convenience of passengers on the Lehigh Valley Railroad waiting for the trolley cars. It was paid for by the railroad company. A rustic shelter has been constructed at the southerly end of the lake just above the bridle path. It affords an excellent view of the lake and park and on clear days one can see across the green of the open meadows to the high buildings in New York. The building is 38 feet by 19 feet 6 inches, and cost \$932.18. Here, as at Branch Brook Park, the need of greater canoeing facilities became apparent owing to the popularity of this sport, and another canoe shed capable of housing forty-eight canoes was constructed at a cost of \$2,119.07. The young people enjoy this diversion immensely. They form at both parks clubs

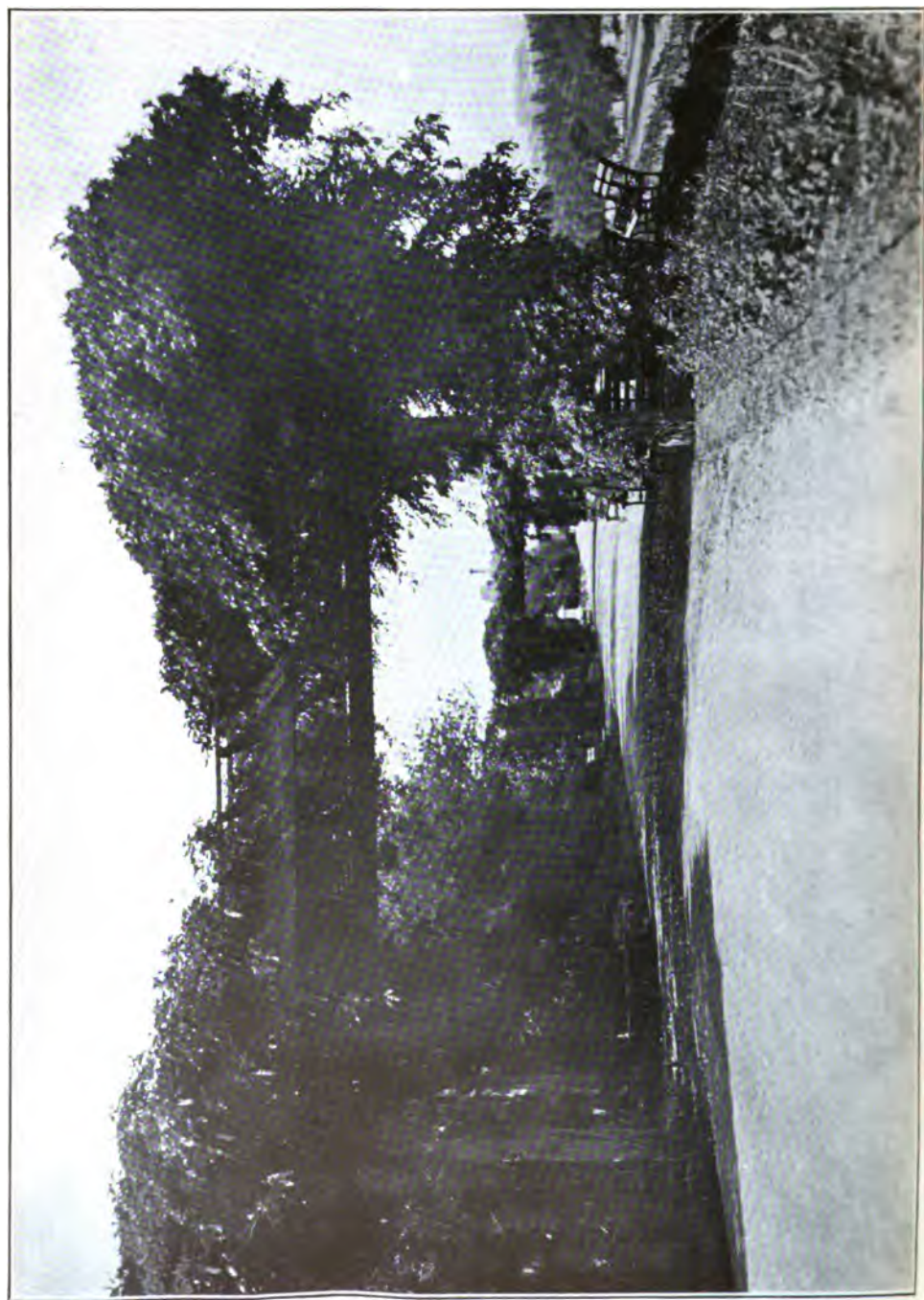


to regulate and organize their sport and hold regattas and races which not only entertain the participants but thousands of spectators along the shores.

Extensive work was done last fall on the race track under the advice of an expert on track construction. The track was ploughed to a depth of six inches, all the large stones were removed and manure was harrowed in. This was in order that a resilient base might be provided. On top of the base was spread six inches of clay top soil. On account of the freezing weather the work was suspended in December but will be resumed as soon as the frost is out of the ground. It is expected that when this improvement is completed the Weequahic track will be one of the fastest half-mile tracks in the East. Here on Saturday afternoons during the summer members of the Road Horse Association gather to race their horses. The popularity of these matinees is remarkable. There is no admission fee and thousands of persons congregate about the track, coming on foot, in automobiles and in carriages to watch the trotting. The old wooden grand stand which had done service for years before it became the property of the County in 1896, has become unfit for service and not safe for the many who crowd into it. As these racing meets are one of the most popular of park features, the Board felt that a suitable fireproof stand which should be absolutely safe, and have a large seating capacity, should be constructed. An agreement was accordingly reached with the Board of Freeholders for raising the money, and a new stand will take the place of the old one during the coming season.

The grand stand will be about 237 feet 8 inches in length, 71 feet 8 inches in width, and about 52 feet 8 inches from the top of the foundations to the top of the roof parapet, seating about 3,100 people.

The foundations will be of concrete—the columns, roof trusses and inclined floor framing of structural steel.



The floor, which will be in steps, or tiers, will be of reinforced concrete, as also the flat portion of roof.

Inclined approaches of concrete at each end, and two inclined approaches under the stand will give access to a broad reinforced concrete promenade along the entire front of the grand stand.

From this promenade, or foyer, aisles between the nine sections of seats will ascend to an overhanging concrete promenade supported by steel brackets at the rear of the stand, extending the entire length of the stand, and on a level with the top row of seats. A light wall of reinforced concrete 4 feet 6 inches high will separate this promenade from the rear row of seats, and will also serve as a wind break at the back of occupants of the rear seats.

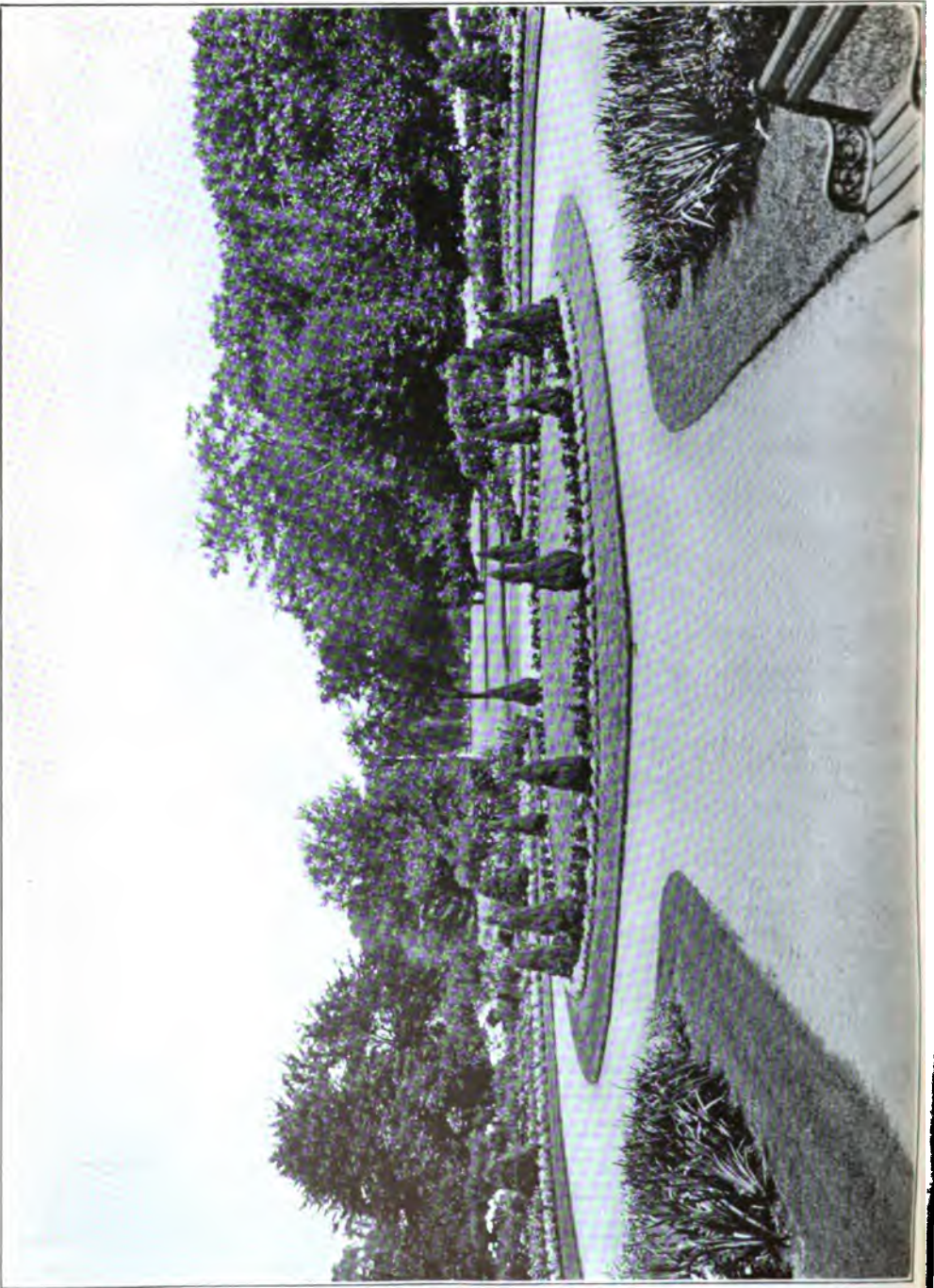
The long spans of girder trusses supporting the roof, reduce the number of columns in front, and correspondingly reduce the interference with clear vision from all parts of the stand.

The end and rear walls will be of rough face brick in a variety of shades of red rising to the under side of the promenade at the rear, and being coped with bluestone at the inclined ends, just above the rake line of the stepped floor.

Open arches are introduced into the brick work of the wall for ornamental effect.

Toilet rooms and emergency rooms for men and for women are located beneath the stand, the partition walls being of terra cotta block and the floors of reinforced concrete with cement finish.

A feature of the grand stand will be the long inclined overhang of the roof around the entire four sides, which overhang will be finished with green terra cotta shingle tiles on heavy splined planks, supported by brackets of structural steel. Tile will be finished to a hanging copper



gutter at the lower edge and a low parapet at the upper edge, both of heavy copper. The flat portion of the roof will be slag, pitch and five-ply felt.

The judges' stand opposite the grand stand will be built to accord and harmonize in general appearance with the grand stand. The dimensions of the judges' stand will be 10 feet 2 inches by 10 feet 2 inches.

The engineer in charge is Mr. Wm. P. Field, of Newark.

Golf is another sport that has taken a firm hold upon the frequenters of this park. A year ago it was decided to lay out a nine-hole course as an experiment. It was opened on July Fourth. A small building for the accommodation of golfers of both sexes was erected. It contains shower baths, lavatories and about 120 lockers. A water system was laid out so that the greens might be sprinkled in dry weather. The response of the public to this added park opportunity was prompt and enthusiastic. From July 4th until January 1st it is estimated that nearly 7,000 players used the links. Indeed, even now the facilities are inadequate, and the Board is having plans prepared for an extension to the Golf House which will be erected next season. There have been some complaints as to neglect in observing the rules. This is very often the case on a public course, but in the opinion of the Board is due more to carelessness than to intention. The Board has instructed its employees to do their utmost to see that the rules are enforced, and it takes this means of requesting the co-operation of the public. All those who use the grounds are urged to carefully study and obey the rules. They are made for the benefit of every one. They are not meant to interfere with anyone's pleasure, but to facilitate the pleasure and safety of all. A further service would be rendered if anyone who notes an infraction of the rules would immediately report it to one of the employees. To make the game safe on a public course strict adherence

to the regulations is essential. The Board has given orders that this be done and asks the assistance of the public in its accomplishment.

Considerable progress has been made in filling the large swamp on the west side of the lake. Weequahic Park was originally a series of hills and hollows and at the bottom of almost every hollow was a swamp. The lake itself was a huge bog-infested tract from which 125,000 cubic yards of floating bog were taken to bring it into its present condition. All these hollows have been drained or filled save the one above mentioned. It was so large and so much filling was required that it was thought wise to make the improvement gradually with material that could be cheaply secured. The Commission has been fortunate in obtaining material from nearby excavations outside the park,



THE BABBLING BROOK, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

and this has greatly reduced the cost of the work. Approximately 3,895 yards or nearly one-half of the amount required have been put in place at a cost of about \$569.40. The completed plans for this park call for a driveway on the west side of the lake across this swamp and at least as far as the wooded knoll that juts out into the centre of the lake.

Little has been done at the reservations. The intention of the Board is to keep them as nearly as possible in their natural state. To reintroduce the rarer trees and shrubs which fires and vandals had destroyed, and to carry on a careful and scientific plan of forestry work. The sale of the wood which is cut in the thinning in large measure pays for the work. In line with this policy the Board will next spring set out 20,000 Scotch, Austrian and white pines and hemlocks. These plants have been raised in the Commission's own nursery in South Mountain Reservation. The seedlings cost only a few cents a piece.

The quarry property at the southerly end of South Mountain Reservation, acquired about two years ago, was planted last fall in order to screen and in some measure soften the bald face of the rock. Vines and shrubs and trees were planted at the base on the summit and in the fissures of the rock. Next season there should be a good coating of green, and as the years go by the quarry will cease to be an ugly scar on the green hillside, but will instead become an added beauty with an attractive mingling of dull gray rock and the varied shades of green vegetation, interspersed with colored blossoms.

The Casino at Eagle Rock has been thoroughly renovated, and a new caretaker placed in charge. The Commission believes the public will find the service much better than in the past.

The trees at Eagle Rock Reservation were severely damaged by an ice storm which occurred last November.



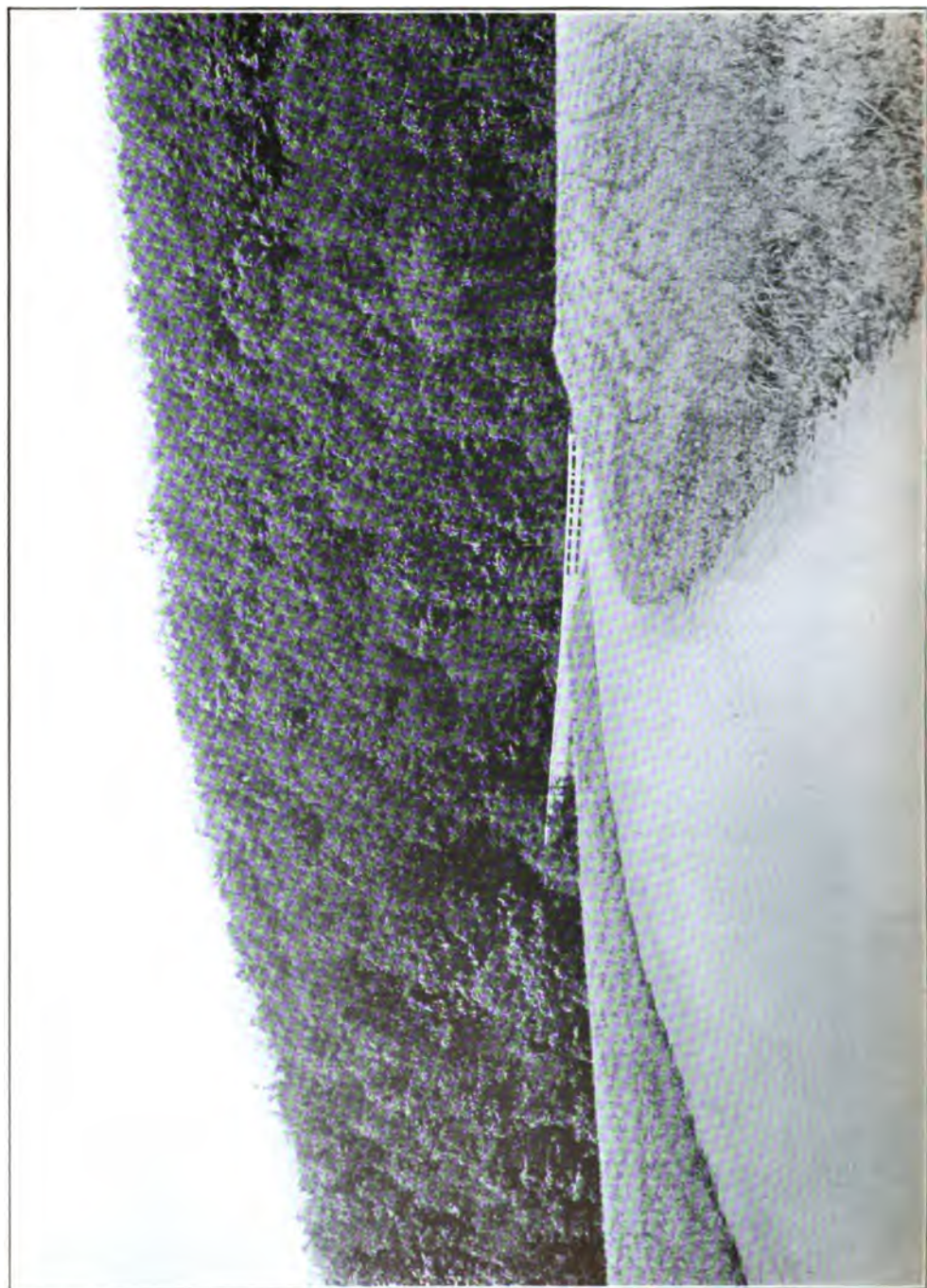
P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

The rain froze as it fell and the weight of the ice broke many of the branches and some of the trees had to be removed. A storm of this character does almost as much damage as a fire, and while the ice-coated forest is a beautiful sight as it sparkles in the sunlight, its effects are serious and lasting. Unfortunately there is no way to guard against this trouble.

The use of the park system increases yearly. The playground attendance is growing largely, and is really remarkable when the fact is borne in mind that there are many municipal playgrounds outside the park area. Allusion has already been made to the use of the lakes, and it is a great gratification to announce that last year in spite of the thousands who used them, there was not a single fatal accident. The band concerts, horse racing and the game



WINTER SPORT, BRANCH BROOK PARK.



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

fields still continue to attract large throngs. Picnics and municipal celebrations are of constant occurrence, and besides all this there is that vast uncounted crowd that rides or walks among the natural beauties and gets its enjoyment from watching nature or the enjoyment of others. It is difficult to give a perfect pen picture of the Essex County Park System or to accurately describe how great a benefit it is to the community. To make the impression more strong the Commission has included in this report some photographs of representative scenes, but the best way to appreciate the system is to visit and inspect it. The report of the Treasurer and the table of playground statistics are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.



"ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP," WEEQUAHIC PARK.



TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERE-
WITH A TABULATED STATEMENT
OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDI-
TURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DE-
CEMBER 31, 1914.**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE. 1914.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1914.....	\$	347 80
Received from Essex County.....	\$285,000 00	
Rents	6,175 76	
Interest	2,742 45	
Miscellaneous	3,502.93	

297,421 14

\$297,768 94

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$ 85,739 18	
Eastside Park	9,110 54	
Westside Park	14,518 22	
Orange Park	14,930 87	
Watsessing Park	11,495 61	
Anderson Park	3,330 02	
Riverbank Park	6,614 45	
Irvington Park	6,104 65	
Weequahic Park	57,065 89	
Glenfield Park	9,460 12	
Grover Cleveland Park.....	319 83	
Yanticaw Park	1,332 17	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	8,230 90	
South Mountain Reservation.....	27,863 75	
East Orange Parkway.....	5,262 52	
Park Avenue	12,679 97	
Prospect Avenue	2,633 40	

\$276,692 09

ITEMS.

Wages—Policemen	\$ 49,423 02
Wages—Labor	141,967 08
Tools and Supplies.....	85,301 99

\$276,692 09

OFFICE.

Petty Cash	\$	50 00
Traveling	585 45	
Stationery and Printing.....	1,832 47	
Office Supplies	256 18	
Salaries	14,977 84	
Rents and Telephones.....	2,881 46	

\$ 20,583 40

Cash on hand December 31st, 1914.....	493 45
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\$297,768 94

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION. 1914.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1914.....	\$247,457 15
Received from Essex County.....	\$199,346 06
Interest	4,078 63
Sales	1,501 40
	204,926 09
	\$452,383 24

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND.

Grover Cleveland Park.....	\$ 8,510 23
Yanticaw Park	650 00
South Mountain Reservation.....	8,196 73
	\$ 17,356 98

CONSTRUCTION.

Branch Brook Park.....	\$ 905 65
Watsessing Park	69,396 44
Glenfield Park	693 38
Yanticaw Park	43,308 60
Grover Cleveland Park.....	3,462 94
Irvington Park	19,204 70
Weequahic Park	65,401 34
Park Avenue	1,888 88
	\$204,261 93

ITEMS.

Grading	\$ 1,900 45
Paving and Sewerage.....	35,360 02
Trees and Plants.....	8,488 04
Labor	119,400 36
Tools and Implements.....	6,807 13
Buildings and Bridges.....	31,063 44
Fences and Fountains.....	1,242 49
	\$204,261 93

OFFICE.

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,034 31
Architects and Engineers.....	16,726 02
	\$ 17,760 33
Cash on hand December 31st, 1914.....	213,004 00
	\$452,383 24

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*



DISTANT VIEW, EACH ROCK RESERVATION.

JUNE 30, 1914.

I certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments for the six months ending June 30th, 1914. I find all items correctly stated.

RICHARD F. STEVENS,
Certified Public Accountant.

DECEMBER 31, 1914.

This is to certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for all payments for the six months ending December 31st, 1914, and I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).



PLAYFIELD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Playfields during the years of 1913 and 1914.

	1913			1914		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF MAY.						
Branch Brook Park.....	25,665	23	1,115	34,400	26	1,323
Eastside Park	34,800	23	1,513	25,100	18	1,394
Westside Park	36,835	23	1,602	19,410	18	1,078
Orange Park	13,489	23	586	13,337	18	741
Watsessing Park	9,389	23	408	11,560	18	642
Riverbank Park	15,765	23	685	11,770	18	654
Irvington Park, opened July 1, 1913.						
Glenfield Park	10,463	23	455	6,415	18	356
	146,406	161	6,364	121,992	134	6,188

MONTH OF JUNE.						
Branch Brook Park.....	26,240	25	1,049	31,385	24	1,308
Eastside Park	37,330	25	1,493	29,630	24	1,235
Westside Park	48,372	25	1,935	31,681	24	1,320
Orange Park	25,455	25	1,018	30,390	24	1,266
Watsessing Park	11,985	25	479	15,020	24	626
Riverbank Park	18,875	25	755	21,330	24	889
Irvington Park, opened July 1, 1913.						
Glenfield Park	12,424	25	493	13,540	24	564
	180,681	175	7,222	172,976	168	7,208

MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook Park.....	48,505	26	1,865	54,775	24	2,282
Eastside Park	44,295	26	1,704	34,025	24	1,418
Westside Park	61,435	26	2,363	48,775	24	2,032
Orange Park	45,164	26	1,737	29,490	24	1,229
Watsessing Park	18,011	26	693	17,683	24	737
Riverbank Park	49,067	26	1,887	30,642	24	1,277
Irvington Park	9,257	26	356	9,925	24	414
Glenfield Park	19,032	26	732	18,589	24	775
	294,766	208	11,337	243,904	192	10,164



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

	1913			1914		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF AUGUST.						
Branch Brook Park.....	54,840	25	2,184	54,590	25	2,184
Eastside Park	44,079	25	1,763	36,950	25	1,478
Westside Park	57,658	25	2,306	43,875	25	1,755
Orange Park	35,184	25	1,407	33,273	25	1,331
Watsessing Park	18,731	25	749	26,865*	25	1,075
Riverbank Park	36,598	25	1,464	30,955	25	1,238
Irvington Park	8,760	25	350	7,407	25	296
Glenfield Park	23,025	25	921	19,150	25	766

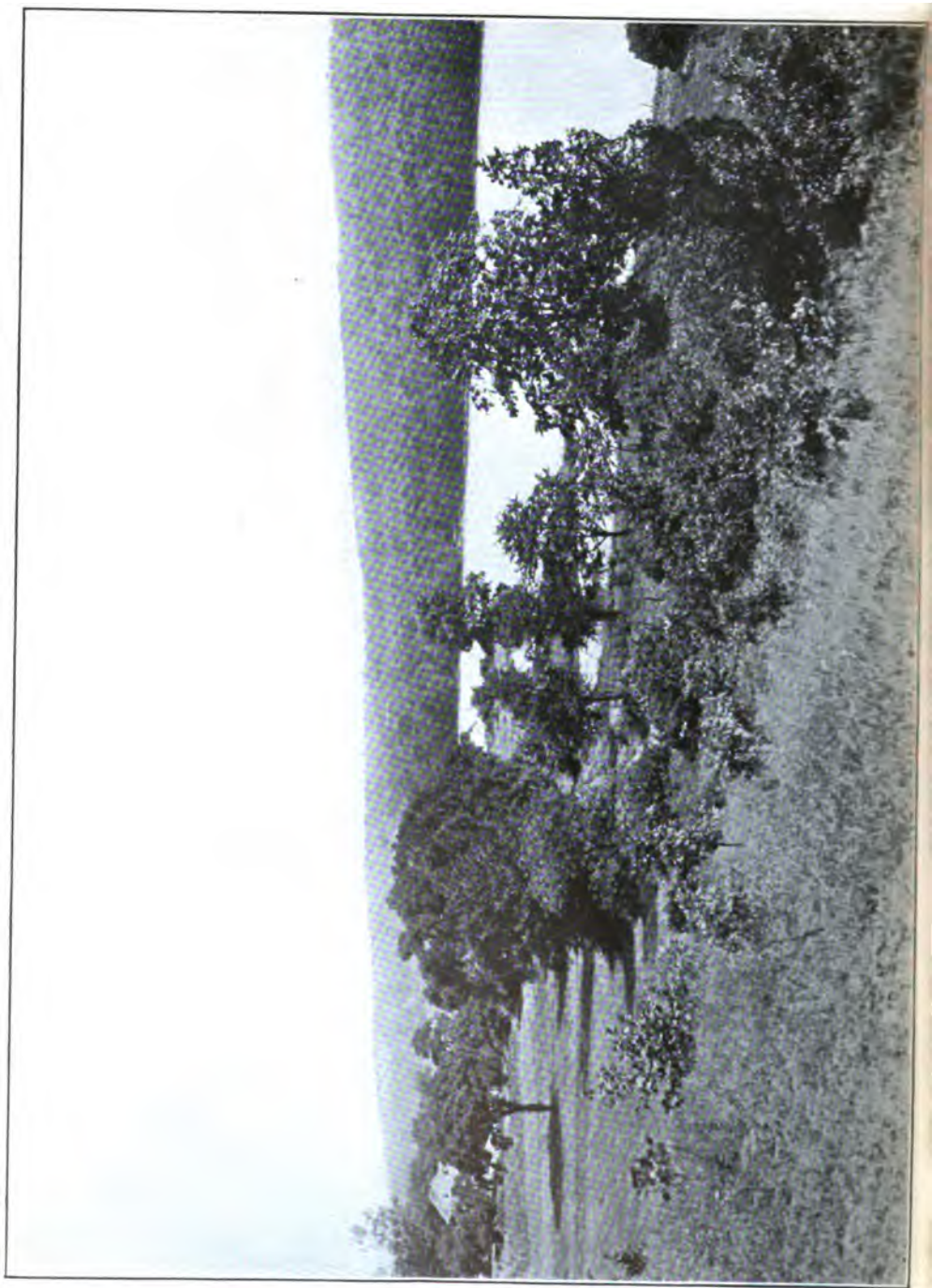
278,875 200 11,144 253,065 200 10,123

* Bloomfield Addition to Watsessing Park opened August 3rd.

	1913			1914		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.						
Branch Brook Park.....	26,740	21	1,273	33,025	26	1,270
Eastside Park	22,775	21	1,085	23,140	26	890
Westside Park	30,049	21	1,431	35,260	26	1,356
Orange Park	8,437	21	402	17,070	26	657
Watsessing Park	5,292	21	252	15,778	26	607
Riverbank Park	15,145	21	721	23,379	26	899
Irvington Park	3,673	21	175	5,190	26	200
Glenfield Park	6,328	21	301	14,925	26	574
	118,441	168	5,640	167,767	208	6,453

	1913			1914		
	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance	Aggregate Monthly Attendance	No. of Days Play Ground Open	Average Daily Attendance
MONTH OF OCTOBER.						
Branch Brook Park.....	8,675	20	434	16,175	12	1,348
Eastside Park	2,740	10	274	7,400	12	616
Westside Park	4,230	20	211	8,560	12	713
Orange Park	2,500	15	166	3,360	12	280
Watsessing Park	2,315	19	122	11,069	14	791
Riverbank Park	1,281	12	107	7,890	12	657
Irvington Park	1,875	15	125	800	12	67
Glenfield Park	5,370	20	268	3,679	12	307
	28,986	131	1,707	58,933	98	4,779

After October 15th playground instruction was discontinued, but the playgrounds were open under the supervision of park attendants.



P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SKATING, WINTER OF 1913-1914.

Number of Skaters.

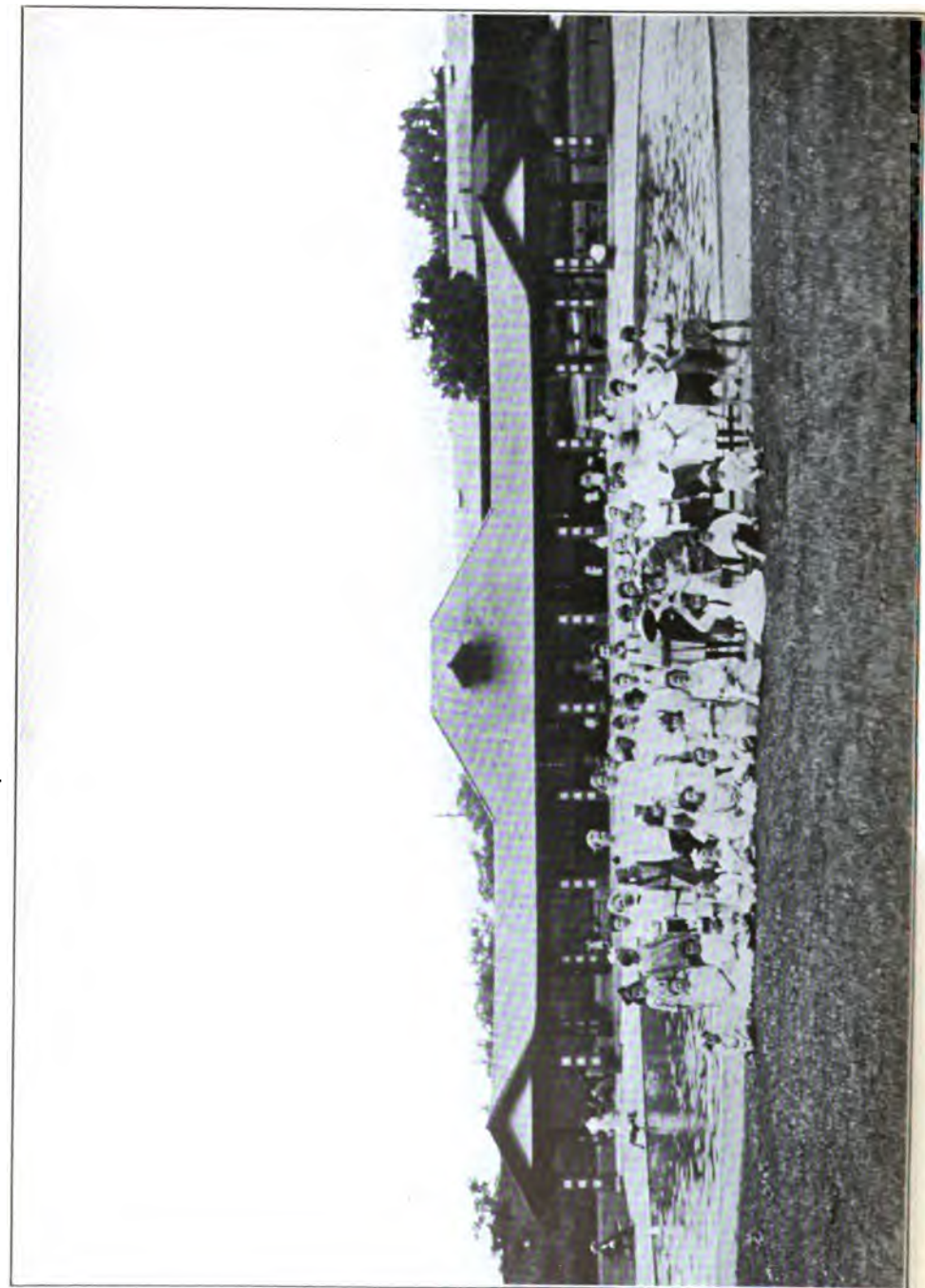
Date	Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Watsessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Irrington Park	Weequahic Park
1913						
Dec. 31		30	450			
1914						
Jan. 2		850	1,400	300	1,500	
" 6		1,000	3,600			
" 7		950	3,500			
" 8			200			
" 11			2,100			
" 12		650	550	68		
" 13		305	375	51	700	
" 14	5,000	3,515	3,900	198	500	4,000
" 15	8,000	4,050	4,250	198	1,500	7,000
" 16	3,000	1,900	1,800	160	650	2,000
" 18	13,000	3,300	4,600	190	1,850	12,000
" 19	13,000	2,500	3,350	210	1,150	12,000
" 20	1,500	450	600	65	500	2,000
" 22	14,000	3,000	3,000	65	875	9,000
" 23	7,000	2,600	2,500	320	750	9,000
" 26				325		
" 27				195		
Feb. 10				225		
" 11			500	153		
" 12		180	400	106	400	
" 13	1,500	385	1,100	175	550	1,200
Total	66,000	25,665	38,175	3,004	10,925	58,200
22 days	9 days	16 days	19 days	17 days	12 days	9 days

AVERAGE NUMBER OF SKATERS, DAILY.

7,333	1,604	2,009	177	910	6,467
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SUMMARY.

Branch Brook Park.....	66,000
Westside Park	25,665
Watsessing Park	38,175
Grover Cleveland Park.....	3,004
Irrington Park	10,925
Weequahic Park	58,200
	201,969
Daily average	9,180



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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park...	10,320	102,450	4,312	28,800
Watsessing Park	774	7,265	1,562	7,955
Weequahic Park	4,376	43,775	2,376	5,580
Irvington Park	496	2,745	1,562	11,075
	<u>15,966</u>	<u>156,235</u>	<u>9,812</u>	<u>53,410</u>

	Tennis.	Croquet.
Branch Brook Park	14,935	
Eastside Park	909	742
Westside Park	4,493	
Orange Park	918	
Anderson Park	2,076	
Watsessing Park	474	
Weequahic Park	12,175	
Irvington Park	6,834	
	<u>42,814</u>	<u>742</u>

Westside Park	<u>Roque.</u> 442
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ATHLETIC FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park	13,520
Westside Park	4,483
Watsessing Park	1,271
Eastside Park	666
Irvington Park	645
Glenfield Park	210
	<u>20,795</u>

GOLF.

Weequahic Park	6,201*
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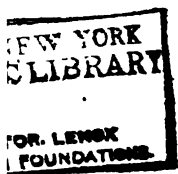
WADING POOLS.

Branch Brook Park	102,830
Westside Park	65,885
Orange Park	9,282†
Riverbank Park	12,745‡
Glenfield Park	14,695
	<u>205,437</u>

† Open August 1st.

‡ Open July 14th.

* Golf Course opened July 4th.



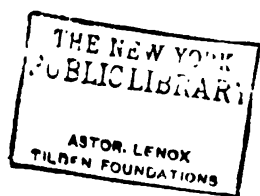
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REPORT
OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1915









WOOD ROAD, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION. Photograph 1

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twentieth³ Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1915

THE W. H. SHURTS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.

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COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

P. SANFORD ROSS.....	Term Expires	191
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	“ “	191
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	“ “	191
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	“ “	191
FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	“ “	192

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

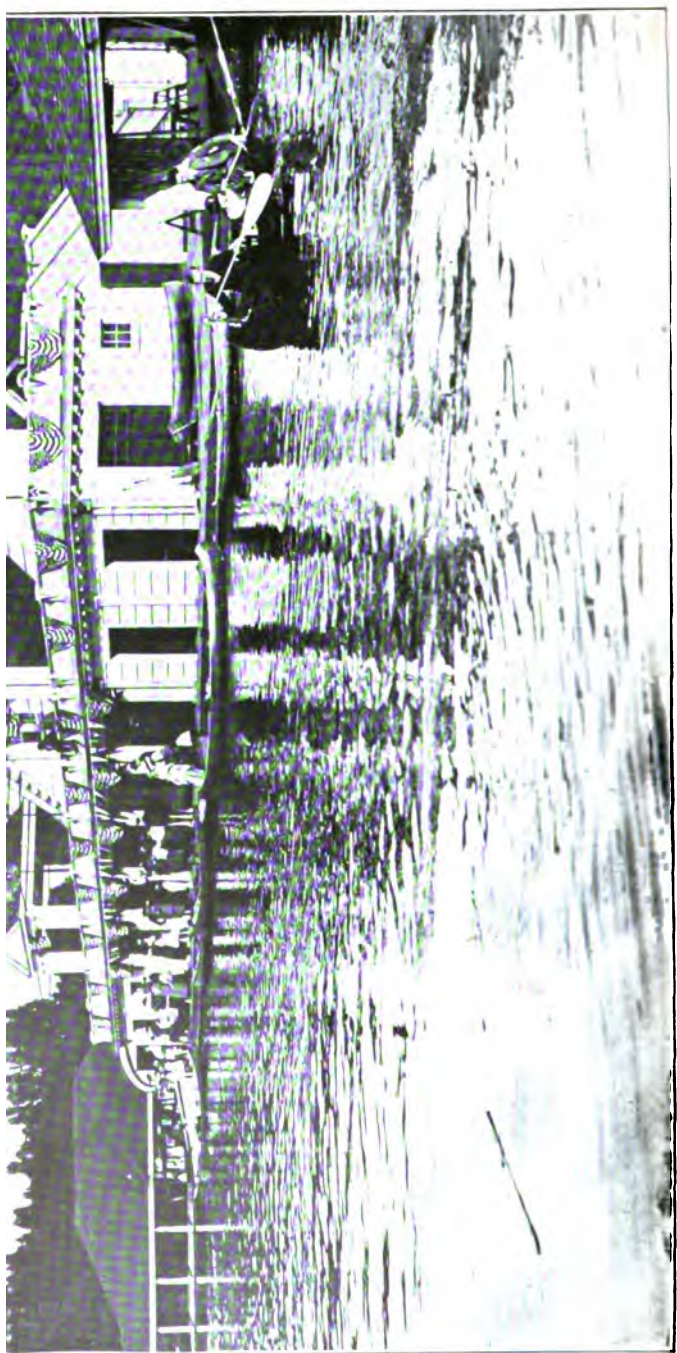
JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.



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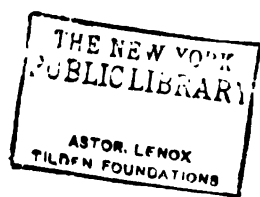
REPORT.

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK.

JANUARY 1ST.

The Essex County Park Commission presents here its twentieth annual report.

During the past few years the citizens of the V burgh section of Newark have been urging the location of a county park in their section of the community. The district is rapidly becoming congested and its open spaces are fast disappearing. The site most favored by the Commission, is the Electric and Motordrome on the south side of South Orange east of Munn Ave. It is a tract of about twenty-five acres lying very nearly in the centre of that section and built upon save by the various pavilions, grand stands and other buildings suitable to a place of its character. The Park Commission took no action in the matter save to say that if the bill authorizing the issuance of the necessary bonds were presented to the Legislature without a referendum the Board would oppose it. The referendum was added, the Legislature passed the bill and at the election in November it was approved by the people by a majority of 3,007. It authorizes the Freeholders, on requisition of the Park Board, to issue additional bonds for park construction to the amount of \$500,000. The Commission has as yet taken no action in the matter but should be understood by the public that the time has now come when the subject of park maintenance should receive its very careful attention. If the addition to the park system of increased area meant only the issuance of more bonds the matter would be a simple one. The park bonds have already begun to mature, and the sinking funds established at their issuance are ample to retire them. In the next ten years over \$2,000,000. of





WOOD ROAD, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION. Photograph by

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ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARK

Twentieth ³Annual Report
OF THE
B O A R D O F
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1915

THE W. H. SHURTS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.

GTE AP 19'17



Swans in the Pond. Photograph by E. H. Tuckey.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

P. SANFORD ROSS.....	Term Expires	19
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	“ “	19
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	“ “	19
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	“ “	19
FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	“ “	19

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.



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THE HOTEL AND THE LAKE

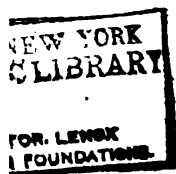
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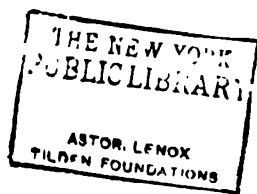
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OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1915





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THE W. H. E
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COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

thirtieth³ Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1915

THE W. H. SHURTS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.

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MISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

ORD ROSS.....	Term Expires	1916
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US G. KIDDER.....	" "	1918
HARDIN.....	" "	1919
IN MURPHY.....	" "	1920

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

The Essex Court
its twentieth annual

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REPORT.

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK. N. J.

JANUARY 1st. 1916.

Essex County Park Commission presents herewith
fiftieth annual report.

During the past few years the citizens of the Vails-
section of Newark have been urging the location of
a park in their section of the community. The dis-
trict rapidly becoming congested and its open spaces
are disappearing. The site most favored by those
coming before the Commission, is the Electric Park
stadium on the south side of South Orange Ave.
Munn Ave. It is a tract of about twenty-five acres
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election in November it was approved by the people by a
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REPORT

OF THE

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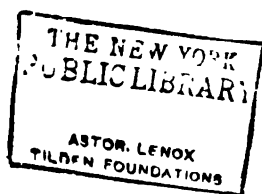
OF

SSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1915

MAP

1



ESSEX COUNTY
DEPARTMENT

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APPOINTED
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**COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**
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3rd Annual Report

OF THE

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

**APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895**

1915

**THE W. H. SHURTIS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.**

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COMMISSIO

P. SANFORD ROSE
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR
CAMILLUS G. KILPATRICK
JOHN R. HARDIN
FRANKLIN MURFORD

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MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

SS.....	Term Expires	1916
CLAIR.....	" "	1917
KIDDER.....	" "	1918
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MURPHY.....	" "	1920

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

The Essex County Park
its twentieth annual report.

During the past few years the
burgh section of Newark has
a county park in their section.
The district is rapidly becoming
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REPORT.

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

JANUARY 1st, 1916.

Park Commission presents herewith report.

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a new section of the community. The dis-
commoding congested and its open spaces
increasing. The site most favored by those
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on the south side of South Orange Ave.
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situated in the centre of that section and little
different from the various pavilions, grand stands and
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Board took no action in the matter save to
pass a bill authorizing the issuance of the neces-
sary bonds presented to the Legislature without a
referendum. The Board would oppose it. The referendum
the Legislature passed the bill and at the
time it was approved by the people by a
majority of 1007. It authorizes the Freeholders, on the
part of the Park Board, to issue additional bonds
in addition to the amount of \$500,000. The
Board has as yet taken no action in the matter. It
is understood by the public that the time has
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MISSIONERS' REPORT

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Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ENACTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1915

THE W. H. SHURTS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.

GTE Ap 19'17

COMMISSION

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P. SANFORD ROSS
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER
JOHN R. HARDIN
FRANKLIN MURPHY

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SECRETARY

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ENGINEER AND

A. M.

AND OFFICERS

.....	Term Expires	1916
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.....	"	" 1918
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MURPHY.

SIDENT.

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ND COUNSEL.

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The Essex County
its twentieth annual

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REPORT.

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

JANUARY 1ST, 1916.

City Park Commission presents herewith
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A few years the citizens of the Vails-
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REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSION

OF

COUNTY, N. J.

1915



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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

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Annual Report

OF THE

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AND UNDER THE ACT
OF MARCH 5th, 1895

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I. SHURTS CO.
NEWARK, N. J.

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COMMISSI

P. SANFORD ROSE
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR
CAMILLUS G. KILPATRICK
JOHN R. HARDIN
FRANKLIN MURPHY

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SECRETARY

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ENGINEER AND :

A. M. H.

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

WIS.....	Term Expires	1916
LAIR.....	" "	1917
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V.....	" "	1919
PHY.....	" "	1920

PRESIDENT.

NKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

BERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

W. R. HARDIN.

CLERK AND COUNSEL.

ALFRED CHURCH.

SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT.

W. M. REYNOLDS.

The Essex County Park
its twentieth annual report

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ROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

JANUARY 1st, 1916.

Commission presents herewith

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COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commission shall have one half of a mill of county ratables, may in the discretion of the Freeholders have three quarters of a mill on any year it does not need the one half mill to the Freeholders and take such sum as may be sufficient. For several years after this the Board asked for a less sum than it was allowed to demand and saved the county \$10,000. But the growing demand for parks and recreation from a rapidly growing community required to be added to the system, and an additional hundred and seventy acres has been acquired in the last five years. It should be said that this was the result of no effort to obtain any of these appraisals were secured by the voluntary associations and civic societies who believed the community would be benefitted. In almost every instance the land accessions were extremely beneficial additions to the system. In some cases the Board did not approve of the proposed new parks and did not carry out the projects. Had it been possible to foresee the great increase in cost of parks and recreation the Commission would have felt constrained to oppose the recent construction of parks and recreation sections of the county in order to secure the opportunity for supplying neighborhood recreation centers and urban centres and even under the present system the Commission is of the opinion that the parks planned and constructed. It is the opinion of the Commission that the health and happiness of the county that the health and happiness of the people in the thickly populated sections should be conserved by opportunities for recreation which are not supplied by the present Municipal Playground Commission. The increase in construction was seriously considered by the department and for this reason the Commission allows one half of a mill on the

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THE GLEN, GL.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

are up to the present time, set with that high degree ways be unheld. The public when contemplating further. If any large additions are made, legislation must also be for their maintenance. What the demand out its perfection is not for the more thickly populated parkways. This question is the eighteenth annual report—on the part of the Board of Directors—the landscape architects have written for the Commission a proposed parkway system. Its distribution and should have the citizens interested in these



GLENFIELD PARK.

matters. The re
of which the wri
at least as a who
could however, be
would be less than
provides for the as
ways which cannot
siderable portion of
park treasury.

The Essex Coun
one. As its extent
it can give the peop
grounds in congeste
parks—often running
great natural reserva
however, until some s
these detached units,



THE TROUT BROOK, SOUTH

D N E R S ' R E P O R T

s an ideal system—the cost admits makes it impossible, nce. Many of its features carried out. The cost also se of parks because the law benefits in the case of park-as to parks. Thus a con-ropriation is returned to the

system is a very beautiful narrowed by municipal limits only the neighborhood play-res, but also the larger city ss municipal lines—and the

It will never be complete. e is evolved to unite together : least the more important of



OUTH MOUNTAIN RESERVATION.

P A R K C O



RI

fore its acquirement
dance hall and is the
of former years—of
a swampy waste, dot
this one—a menace to
per improvement save
now been put. When t
remain only the old bric
in connection with the
Newark. In 1889 this
included in the Southern
was dedicated by the C
Newark to park purposes
Street and Water Commi:
succeeded to the powers
this tract—granted to thi:
control save this small pi

OWNERS' REPORT



BANK PARK.

For park purposes a saloon and the last remnant of the Branch Brook Park. At the time when the park was only filled with unsightly buildings like a health, and incapable of any proper use for the purposes to which it has been put. When this building is removed there will be a park pumping station, formerly used for the water supply of the City of Newark. This land with other property now in the Division of Branch Brook Park was given to the Common Council of the City of Newark forever. In 1895 the Board of Commissioners of Newark—which had been created by the Common Council over the City of Newark—gave to this Board all the land under its jurisdiction which had been reserved for water supply.

P A R K C O M M I

teenth Street will enable heretofore devoted to track, and to transform er folk—as for example and possibly pitching of passed under the contro. a nuisance to the City. of old Magnolia Swan quagmire on which no satisfactory foundations had ruined many a contr these conditions. For p factory as no heavy str and thus, in developing a hood, this Board has al

The work of completin



A VIEW IN AN

N E R S ' R E P O R T

ard to seed down the space
urposes and to the running
to playgrounds for the old-
courts, grounds for croquet
. The land which has now
s Board has for years been
ned part—the worst part—
This was an impenetrable
ing could be erected with
ot at great cost, and which
who had sought to alleviate
uses it will be very satis-
res need be built upon it,
asure spot for the neighbor-
minated a public nuisance
ne development of Watses-



ANDERSON PARK.

sing Park has also been procees into being as a result of the of East Orange of ten acres oerly held as a disposal works. appreciating the value of this tended to the Bloomfield line-prise. Several citizens of the among them being Messrs. All Underwood, assisted this Bo time and business ability but in securing adjoining land in E of the park. The Town of self in the sum of \$25,000. purchase of additional land t enterprise. In order to perpe Underwood, now dead, and h ment of this park, the ladies Association have erected at t trance a handsome gateway presented to the County, and tablet. Another improvemen acquirement and destruction —an unsightly series of tenen themselves into park property acquired the fee of the land out an outstanding life inter railroad some three and a h has been flooded for several poses has proved so popular it necessary last year to erecter nearby. This building is is built in sections so that it the close of the skating seas

One of the new parks, autislature spoken of above is Caldwell. It was so named place of the distinguished

MISSIONERS' REPORT

been proceeded with. This park came out of the generous gift of the City ten acres of land which it had formal works. The Town of Bloomfield in connection with this project—the property extending to the city line—co-operated in the enterprise of that town—most prominent. Messrs. Allison Dodd and Charles R. Smith of this Board, not only with their ability but with their money as well as their land in Bloomfield for an extension of the town of Bloomfield also bonded it for \$25,000. which it expended in the purchase of the land to form part of the same to perpetuate the memory of Mr. John D. Smith, and his interest in the establishment of the Town Improvement Commission at the Bloomfield Avenue entrance of stone, which they have erected, and on which is to be a bronze monument to this park is the final action of the so-called Brick Row tenement houses which obtruded on the property. The Town of Bloomfield bought the land and the Commission bought the interest. An area west of the park of about a half acres in extent, which has been several years past for skating purposes. The Commission found it necessary to erect a temporary skating shelter which is of frame construction and which can be readily removed at the end of the season.

It is authorized by acts of the Legislature to establish Grover Cleveland Park in the city of Cleveland because located in the birthplace of the former President of the

land this Board was forced to of the beautiful valley of the This would not only have more attractive but would also of a parkway to connect the Park in Newark and with the charming addition to the park available the Commission hope park along playground lines. and tennis grounds, wading pool to the usual park features this development will be on hand.

The construction of the field was commenced last fall and will be in readiness for use near is located on the axis of the Passaic Avenue, and the Chi wading pool a short distance field house is of concrete covered feet long and will contain and lockers. There is an option of the building which contains The children's shelter is also is forty feet in length. To courts. The building will contain additions. These improvements and make it a most attractive It includes a portion of the view of the River in the Town of land as well as low land, a li drives and walks, charming tains and the usual provisions well as for childish sport.

Work on the addition to Elizabeth Avenue and the is practically finished last fall.

MISSIONERS' REPORT

was forced to abandon the acquirement valley of the Second River adjoining. only have made this park itself much but would also have formed the nucleus to connect the park with Branch Brook and with the Passaic River—a most link to the park system. With the money the Commission hopes to be able to develop the ground lines. It will contain baseball fields, wading pool and sand courts in addition to park features. As much as possible of this will be completed with the funds in

the plan of the field house at Yanticaw Park was completed last fall and it is hoped the buildings will be ready for use next season. The field house is on the axis of the mall running west from the Children's shelter is near the short distance from Centre Street. The building is of concrete construction. It is one hundred feet long and will contain shower baths, lavatories and a kitchen. There is an open shelter on the upper porch which can be used as a band stand. The lower porch is also of concrete construction and is twenty feet high. To it is attached covered sand pits. The building will contain the usual accommodations and improvements will complete the park as an attractive addition to the park system. The plan of the valley of the Third or Yanticaw River in the Town of Nutley. It comprises high land, a little stream, a lake, attractive views of the Orange Mountain and provision for baseball and tennis as well as for sport.

In addition to Weequahic Park—between the park and the Lehigh Valley Railroad was completed last fall. Next year three buildings

will be erected here, a comfort :
 nearly opposite Lyons Avenue,
 southerly end of the playgroun
 ilion on Divident Hill. They v
 ficial stone and of white tile, ar
 pavilion is the contribution o
 celebration by the City of Ne
 versary of its founding. It wa
 the representatives of Elizabet
 the boundary line between the
 structure marks as nearly as c
 where the meeting occurred
 memorate that event. From it
 surrounding country and it wil
 for rest and reflection. The r
 once here a large oak tree on
 carved an N and an E. The C
 another oak near the pavilion
 tions may appreciate the his
 spot. The South Side High S
 have announced their intentic
 ing an appropriate bronze ta
 memorate it. The Park Corr
 sion to the Committee of Or
 the City's Celebration to use
 pageant given to commemorat
 September the National An
 will hold its championship g
 has been commenced on the
 mile running track with the
 stand. It is being built on t
 will be paid for by the Comm
 turned over to the Commissio
 The Committee has further a
 not desire to maintain this ti
 pense of removing it. In or
 creased number of horsemen

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ere, a comfort station on the high ground
Lyons Avenue, a children's shelter at the
the playground and a monumental pav-
Hill. They will be constructed of arti-
f white tile, and will cost \$32,600. The
contribution of the Commission to the
e City of Newark of the 250th Anni-
nding. It was here on May 28th, 1668
s of Elizabeth and Newark met to fix
between the two municipalities. The
s nearly as can be ascertained the spot
ng occurred and is erected to com-
ent. From it there is a fine view of the
ry and it will be a most attractive spot
tion. The records state that there was
oak tree on which the commissioners
n E. The Commission intends to plant
the pavilion that succeeding genera-
ate the historical significance of the
Side High School children of Newark
eir intention of placing on the build-
bronze tablet to still further com-
Park Commission has given permis-
tee of One Hundred—in charge of
ion to use this park for the historic
mmemorate the City's founding. Next
tional Amateur Athletic Association
ionship games in this park. Work
ed on the construction of a quarter
with the finish opposite the grand
built on the most approved methods,
the Committee of One Hundred and
Commission at the end of the season.
Further agreed that should this Board
in this track, it will bear all the ex-
t. In order to accommodate the in-
orsemen who are expected to visit

Weequahic Park to taking meet in July—in case has been found necessary for horses. These stalls of One Hundred and Association—adjoining the of the season presented be four new stables for horses. Owing to the lack of course here the Commission an addition to the golf course the large number of players contains over one hundred who used the course last season is constantly increasing. The players fully obey the rules prescribed by the Board's employees in the case of a public course there is no doubt the rules are meant for them. If they are obeyed it will be the benefit of all visitors. Much work is being done in filling the large swamp adjoining the Lehigh Valley, which has been an unsightly spot at the entrance to the Park. The Board has proceeded with this work as funds in hand would permit. In the obliteration of the Essex Court the Commission has kept its schedule. This season it is hoped that what was formerly a very may be firm dry land added to the Park. The Board has always endeavored to place proper authorities in the execution of the work at Weequahic Park so long as it has been unusually free from interruption. Work on the new grand stand is described in the last report, with reference to weather. All the steel work

to take part in the great amateur drive—in connection with the celebration—it necessary to increase the accommodations these stalls will be erected by the Committee and the New Jersey Road Horse joining those now there, and at the end presented to the Commission. There will be able to accommodate about forty-eight to the largely increased use of the golf. The Commission found it necessary to build a new golf house in order to accommodate a larger number of players. Its cost was \$2,070. It has a hundred lockers. Nearly 14,000 players were present last year and its popularity is constantly increasing. The public is again urged to care for the course and assist the employees in requiring others to do so. On the whole there is of necessity additional risk and expense, but it is for the benefit and protection of all.

It will increase the pleasure and comfort of the public. Much progress has been made in the swamp on the west side of the lake near the High Valley Railroad. This has long been a mosquito breeding spot and a mosquito breeding area. It has succeeded with its elimination as rapidly as would allow, and pending its entire removal the Essex County Mosquito Extermination Commission has oiled its slimy waters. In another place what once was an unsightly bog has been drained and adapted for park development. The Commission endeavored to co-operate with the State in the extermination of the mosquito, but so long their favorite abode has been in the swamp from them during the past year. A grand stand, which was fully developed, was carried on until freezing weather. The steel work has been completed, the

forms placed for the con
be ready for use early
has constructed new fence
the race track. The estimate
was \$70,000. The Board
000. from the general tax
by this Board. Plans ha
tion of a new house for
of the lake. Work there
spring.

Work on the addition to
pleted. The Commission
tion of a field house at t
with tile roof. It contain
usual accommodations. I
found some trouble in n
water in the wading pool
last annual report. A well
eight inches in diameter, i
deep and cost \$575. It
showing that it has a flow
lons per minute. It is p
nounce that there is suffic
the wading pool without pu
tractive little fountain as we

The Board has been off
of Orange that it is consid
water supply at South M
necessitates asking for per
ervoir area by flooding abou
in. This Reservation surrou
and as the Commission own
never be denuded of trees, c
the city the greatest protecti
request has been made as y
fore the Board has come to
would be justified, even if I

MISSIONERS' REPORT

he concrete seats and the structure will early next summer. The commission w fences on the inside and outside of e estimated cost of these improvements Board of Freeholders contributed \$30,- ral tax levy. The balance will be paid ans have been prepared for the erec- se for the water fowl, at the edge of k thereon will be commenced in the

ition to Irvington Park has been com- ission has also finished the construc- se at the playground. It is of brick contains lockers, lavatories and the ns. The cost \$10,677. The Board : in maintaining the purity of the g pool at this park as noted in the A well has now been driven. It is eter, is two hundred and sixty feet . It yields an ample supply, tests i flow of one hundred and fifty gal- t is particularly gratifying to an- sufficient flow not only to supply out pumping, but to furnish an at- as well.

en officially informed by the City onsidering a plan for increasing its uth Mountain Reservation, which or permission to increase the res- g about seventy acres of land there- surrounds the Orange water supply n owns the Water shed which will rees, or built upon, it has afforded ottection without cost. No formal e as yet by the City itself, there- ne to no decision as to whether it en if legally entitled so to do, in

P A R K



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trees an
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Reserv
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time in
and pi
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GARDENS, EASTSIDE PARK.

to this Reservation those species of which formerly thrived there but which another have been destroyed. This to bear fruit and the Reservation aspect similar to what it had in the site man first walked among the is. It is gratifying to note in this locks, once covering a considerable now included in South Mountain most entirely exterminated by com- begun to reproduce themselves be- nt forestry work that has been car- mission and we look forward to a ire when there will be fine hemlock a to the public enjoyment. Moun-) indigenou in the Orange Moun-

P A R K C O L

tains was also a
frequent forest
and the prever
throughout the
such an extent
June lends an
woods of the R
should take fu
at hand. The
play ground s



COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

almost exterminated by wood cutting and fires, but the Commission's forestry work and the prevention of fires has enabled it to spread to the southerly part of the Reservation to such an extent that the luxuriant bloom in the month of May adds an additional charm to a day spent in the Reservation and the residents of the county can take full advantage of so much beauty so close at hand. The report of the Treasurer and the table of statistics are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.



DRIVEWAY, BRANCH BROOK PARK.

**T
E
T
N
C
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TREASURER'S REPORT

THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERE-
WITH A TABULATED STATEMENT
OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDI-
TURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DE-
CEMBER 31, 1915.

P A R K C O M M

MAINT

Cash on hand January
Received from Essex
 Rents
 Interest
 Miscellaneous

DI

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND

Branch Brook Park ..
Eastside Park
Westside Park
Orange Park
Watsessing Park
Anderson Park
Riverbank Park
Irvington Park
Weequahic Park
Glenfield Park
Grover Cleveland Park .
Yanticaw Park
Eagle Rock Reservation
South Mountain Reserva
East Orange Parkway .
Park Avenue
Prospect Avenue

Wages—Policemen
Wages—Labor ...
Tools and Supplie

OFFICE.

Traveling
Stationery and Printing ..
Office Supplies
Salaries
Rents and Telephones
Architects and Engineers ..

Cash on hand December 31

Jo

;

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

MAINTENANCE. 1915.

RECEIPTS.

January 1st, 1915.....	\$	493 45
Essex County.....	\$300,000 00	
.....	6,285 00	
st	2,544 97	
llaneous	3,626 16	
		<u>312,456 13</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

\$312,949 58

CTIONS AND PARKWAYS.

k Park	\$ 85,774 32
k	9,510 85
rk	14,203 41
c	12,264 06
Park	20,311 09
ark	3,688 20
'ark	6,125 33
ark	6,855 71
Park	54,999 94
rk	9,378 01
eland Park	567 00
ark	4,590 58
Reservation	11,587 90
ntain Reservation	27,716 66
e Parkway	4,928 94
ie	14,190 59
venue	2,159 55

\$288,852 14

ITEMS.

ges—Policemen	\$ 49,571 78
ges—Labor	143,880 35
ols and Supplies	95,400 01

\$288,852 14

.....	\$ 368 50
and Printing	3,322 25
olies	302 18
.....	14,881 69
Telephones	3,567 39
and Engineers	1,233 12

\$ 23,675 13

and December 31st, 1915	422 31
-------------------------------	--------

\$312,949 58

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

This is to cer
the Commission
for 1915, and I

DECEMBER 31, 1915.

certify that I have examined the books of
sion and the items of receipts and vouchers
d I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.)

PLAYFI

of 1892

MONTH OF MAY.

Branch Brook ...
 Eastside
 Westside
 Orange
 Watsessing
 " Bloomfield
 Addition
 Riverbank
 Irvington, Opened
 Glenfield

MONTH OF JUNE.

Branch Brook ...
 Eastside
 Westside
 Orange
 Watsessing
 " Bloomfield
 Addition
 Riverbank
 Irvington Park, C
 Glenfield

FIELD ATTENDANCE

SEASON 1915.

	No. of Days	Play Ground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track	Total
MAY.							
...	13	1,076	5,487	970	7,089	2,372	16,994
....	13	1,284	3,840	670	4,897	780	11,471
.....	13	1,874	7,725	875	3,060	908	14,442
.....	13	898	1,215	987	2,461	—	5,561
.....	13	917	1,023	703	1,467	490	4,600
field							
.....	13	231	785	360	1,332	—	2,708
.....	13	1,023	2,146	120	3,995	315	7,599
opened July 1st.							
.....	13	816	2,764	374	1,844	465	6,263

JUNE.							
...	26	1,734	11,041	1,975	13,386	3,640	31,776
.....	26	1,465	13,677	1,284	11,670	834	28,930
.....	26	1,683	14,920	3,975	15,195	1,445	37,218
.....	26	1,034	6,495	2,164	7,785	—	17,478
.....	26	1,287	3,640	2,127	4,736	562	12,352
nfield							
.....	26	338	4,777	1,769	5,050	—	11,934
.....	26	1,446	9,496	410	9,530	850	21,732
ark, Opened July 1st.							
.....	26	1,264	4,484	1,460	4,463	968	12,639

P A R K C O M M ---

No. of Days

MONTH OF JULY.

Branch Brook	26
Eastside	26
Westside	26
Orange	26
Watsessing	26
" Bloomfield	
Addition	26
Riverbank	26
Irvington	26
Glenfield	26

MONTH OF AUGUST.

Branch Brook ...	25
Eastside	25
Westside	25
Orange	25
Watsessing	25
" Bloomfield	
Addition	25
Riverbank	25
Irvington	25
Glenfield	25

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Branch Brook ...	25
Eastside	25
Westside	25
Orange	25
Watsessing	25
" Bloomfield	
Addition	25
Riverbank	25
Irvington	25
Glenfield	25

MISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON 1915.

Play Ground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track	Total
2,674	14,367	4,175	16,870	4,892	42,978
1,321	14,210	2,375	17,220	1,089	36,215
2,477	17,380	4,190	18,595	1,215	43,857
1,986	14,720	4,560	14,210	840	36,316
1,264	8,540	4,566	5,897	615	20,882
435	6,586	2,704	6,040	—	15,765
1,767	11,920	1,385	10,225	869	26,166
685	3,080	1,620	3,647	249	9,281
1,647	9,647	2,543	11,677	1,096	26,610
2,789	15,560	4,135	15,796	4,980	43,260
1,493	15,775	2,150	16,650	1,055	37,123
2,565	18,020	4,935	18,991	1,113	45,624
2,047	13,440	4,327	16,494	1,203	37,511
1,056	8,034	4,654	5,460	508	19,712
380	3,309	1,128	3,656	—	8,473
1,654	10,915	1,305	9,120	790	23,784
596	2,940	1,735	2,896	295	8,462
1,790	9,840	2,467	12,677	989	27,763
1,400	8,974	3,515	11,550	1,830	27,269
937	7,540	1,300	9,355	864	19,996
1,605	10,830	2,615	12,135	1,691	28,876
1,096	7,643	1,764	9,373	360	20,236
843	4,360	1,714	2,521	280	9,718
532	3,493	1,014	2,230	—	7,269
843	5,649	1,219	6,750	673	15,134
366	2,709	1,294	2,043	—	6,412
796	3,043	1,060	3,129	434	8,462

P A R K C O 2

SKA

Date	Branch Brook Park
1914.	
Dec. 18	—
" 22	—
" 23	3,50
" 24	2,00
" 25	8,00
" 26	12,00
" 27	15,00
" 28	15,00
" 31	8,00
1915.	
Jan. 1	18,00
" 2	15,00
" 3	18,00
" 4	10,00
" 5	9,00
" 11	—
Feb. 9	—
" 10	—
Total	133,50
17 days	12 da

AVERA

11.1

Branch
Westsid
Watsess
Grover
Irvingt
Weequa

Daily a

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SKATING, WINTER OF 1914-1915.

Number of Skaters.

Lincoln Brook Park	Westside Park	Wassessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Weequahic Park	Irvington Park
—	650	—	60	—	900
—	900	—	50	—	600
3,500	1,800	—	75	3,500	650
2,000	1,000	—	90	2,500	450
8,000	3,750	—	230	8,000	150
2,000	3,500	800	250	10,000	1,400
15,000	7,500	1,000	275	16,000	2,300
15,000	5,000	800	340	15,000	2,600
8,000	3,000	—	175	8,000	1,400
18,000	9,000	—	75	17,000	2,500
15,000	9,500	—	175	15,000	2,300
18,000	12,000	1,300	310	17,000	2,300
10,000	8,000	800	375	10,000	2,000
9,000	450	400	550	9,000	1,900
—	800	100	—	—	—
—	—	300	25	—	—
—	350	900	25	—	350
33,500	67,200	6,400	3,080	131,000	21,800
2 days	16 days	9 days	16 days	12 days	15 days

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF SKATERS, DAILY.

11,125	4,200	711	193	10,917	1,453
--------	-------	-----	-----	--------	-------

SUMMARY.

Lincoln Brook Park	133,500
Westside Park	67,200
Wassessing Park	6,400
Grover Cleveland Park	3,080
Irvington Park	21,800
Weequahic Park	131,000
	362,980
Daily average	21,352

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N

MAINTENANCE.

RECEIPT

Cash on hand January 1st, 1915.....
Received from Essex County.....
 Rents
 Interest
 Miscellaneous

DISBURSE

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKW.

Branch Brook Park
Eastside Park
Westside Park
Orange Park
Watsessing Park
Anderson Park
Riverbank Park
Irvington Park
Weequahic Park
Glenfield Park
Grover Cleveland Park
Yanticaw Park
Eagle Rock Reservation .
South Mountain Reservat
East Orange Parkway .
Park Avenue
Prospect Avenue

Wages—Policen

Wages—Labor

Tools and Sup

OFFICE.

Traveling
Stationery and Printi
Office Supplies
Salaries
Rents and Telephon
Architects and Eng

Cash on hand Dec

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

MAINTENANCE. 1915.

RECEIPTS.

January 1st, 1915.....	\$	493 45
Sevier County.....	\$300,000 00	
.....	6,285 00	
.....	2,544 97	
.....	3,626 16	

312,456 13

DISBURSEMENTS.

\$312,949 58

STREETS AND PARKWAYS.

Clark \$	85,774 32
.....	9,510 85
.....	14,203 41
.....	12,264 06
.....	20,311 09
.....	3,688 20
.....	6,125 33
.....	6,855 71
.....	54,999 94
.....	9,378 01
Park *	567 00
.....	4,590 58
.....	11,587 90
.....	27,716 66
.....	4,928 94
.....	14,190 59
.....	2,159 55

\$288,852 14

OTHER ITEMS.

Police \$	49,571 78
.....	143,880 35
Supplies	95,400 01
.....	\$288,852 14

..... \$	368 50
.....	3,322 25
.....	302 18
.....	14,881 69
.....	3,567 39
.....	1,233 12

\$ 23,675 13

December 31st, 1915	422 31
---------------------------	--------

\$312,949 58

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

This is to cert
the Commission
for 1915, and I 1

DECEMBER 31, 1915.

ify that I have examined the books of
and the items of receipts and vouchers
ind all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.)

PLAYERS

MONTH OF MAY.

Branch Brook ...
Eastside
Westside
Orange
Watsessing
 " Bloomfield
 Addition
Riverbank
Irvington, Opened
Glenfield

MONTH OF JUNE.

Branch Brook .
Eastside
Westside
Orange
Watsessing ...
 " Bloomfield
 Addition
Riverbank
Irvington Park.
Glenfield

FIELD ATTENDANCE

SEASON 1915.

No. of Days	Play Ground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track	Total
13	1,076	5,487	970	7,089	2,372	16,994
13	1,284	3,840	670	4,897	780	11,471
13	1,874	7,725	875	3,060	908	14,442
13	898	1,215	987	2,461	—	5,561
13	917	1,023	703	1,467	490	4,600
3	231	785	360	1,332	—	2,708
3	1,023	2,146	120	3,995	315	7,599
uly 1st.						
3	816	2,764	374	1,844	465	6,263
6	1,734	11,041	1,975	13,386	3,640	31,776
5	1,465	13,677	1,284	11,670	834	28,930
5	1,683	14,920	3,975	15,195	1,445	37,218
5	1,034	6,495	2,164	7,785	—	17,478
5	1,287	3,640	2,127	4,736	562	12,352
	338	4,777	1,769	5,050	—	11,934
	1,446	9,496	410	9,530	850	21,732
ned July 1st.						
	1,264	4,484	1,460	4,463	968	12,639

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R

SEASON 1915.

	No. of Days	Play Ground	Games	Sand Court
MONTH OF JULY.				
Branch Brook	26	2,674	14,367	4,
Eastside	26	1,321	14,210	2,
Westside	26	2,477	17,380	4
Orange	26	1,986	14,720	4
Watsessing	26	1,264	8,540	4
" Bloomfield				
Addition	26	435	6,586	
Riverbank	26	1,767	11,920	
Irvington	26	685	3,080	
Glenfield	26	1,647	9,647	

MONTH OF AUGUST.				
Branch Brook ...	25	2,789	15,560	
Eastside	25	1,493	15,775	
Westside	25	2,565	18,020	
Orange	25	2,047	13,444	
Watsessing	25	1,056	8,031	
" Bloomfield				
Addition	25	380	3,301	
Riverbank	25	1,654	10,911	
Irvington	25	596	2,911	
Glenfield	25	1,790	9,811	

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.				
Branch Brook ...	25	1,400	8,111	
Eastside	25	937	5,111	
Westside	25	1,605	10,111	
Orange	25	1,096	6,111	
Watsessing	25	843	4,111	
" Bloomfield				
Addition	25	532	3,111	
Riverbank	25	843	4,111	
Irvington	25	366	2,111	
Glenfield	25	796	4,111	

MISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON 1915.

No. of Days	Play Ground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track	Total
26	2,674	14,367	4,175	16,870	4,892	42,978
26	1,321	14,210	2,375	17,220	1,089	36,215
26	2,477	17,380	4,190	18,595	1,215	43,857
26	1,986	14,720	4,560	14,210	840	36,316
26	1,264	8,540	4,566	5,897	615	20,882

26	435	6,586	2,704	6,040	—	15,765
26	1,767	11,920	1,385	10,225	869	26,166
26	685	3,080	1,620	3,647	249	9,281
26	1,647	9,647	2,543	11,677	1,096	26,610

ST.

25	2,789	15,560	4,135	15,796	4,980	43,260
25	1,493	15,775	2,150	16,650	1,055	37,123
25	2,565	18,020	4,935	18,991	1,113	45,624
25	2,047	13,440	4,327	16,494	1,203	37,511
25	1,056	8,034	4,654	5,460	508	19,712

25	380	3,309	1,128	3,656	—	8,473
25	1,654	10,915	1,305	9,120	790	23,784
25	596	2,940	1,735	2,896	295	8,462
25	1,790	9,840	2,467	12,677	989	27,763

MBER.

25	1,400	8,974	3,515	11,550	1,830	27,269
25	937	7,540	1,300	9,355	864	19,996
25	1,605	10,830	2,615	12,135	1,691	28,876
25	1,096	7,643	1,764	9,373	360	20,236
25	843	4,360	1,714	2,521	280	9,718

25	532	3,493	1,014	2,230	—	7,269
25	843	5,649	1,219	6,750	673	15,134
25	366	2,709	1,294	2,043	—	6,412
25	796	3,043	1,060	3,129	434	8,462

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R

SKATING, WINTER OF

Number of Skate

Date	Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Watsessing Park
1914.			
Dec. 18	—	650	—
" 22	—	900	—
" 23	3,500	1,800	—
" 24	2,000	1,000	—
" 25	8,000	3,750	—
" 26	12,000	3,500	800
" 27	15,000	7,500	1,000
" 28	15,000	5,000	800
" 31	8,000	3,000	—
1915.			
Jan. 1	18,000	9,000	—
" 2	15,000	9,500	—
" 3	18,000	12,000	1,300
" 4	10,000	8,000	800
" 5	9 000	450	400
" 11	—	800	100
Feb. 9	—	—	300
" 10	—	350	900
Total	133,500	67,200	6,400
17 days	12 days	16 days	9 days

AVERAGE NUMBER OF S

11,125 4,200 711

SUMMARY

Branch Brook Park
 Westside Park
 Watsessing Park
 Grover Cleveland Park
 Irvington Park
 Weequahic Park

Daily average

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SKATING, WINTER OF 1914-1915.

Number of Skaters.

Park	Westside Park	Watsessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Wequahic Park	Irrington Park
	650	—	60	—	900
	900	—	50	—	600
	1,800	—	75	3,500	650
	1,000	—	90	2,500	450
	3,750	—	230	8,000	150
	3,500	800	250	10,000	1,400
	7,500	1,000	275	16,000	2,300
	5,000	800	340	15,000	2,600
	3,000	—	175	8,000	1,400
	9,000	—	75	17,000	2,500
	9,500	—	175	15,000	2,300
	12,000	1,300	310	17,000	2,300
	8,000	800	375	10,000	2,000
	450	400	550	9,000	1,900
	800	100	—	—	—
	—	300	25	—	—
	350	900	25	—	350
	67,200	6,400	3,080	131,000	21,800
16 days	9 days	16 days	12 days	15 days	

NUMBER OF SKATERS, DAILY.

4,200 711 193 10,917 1,453

SUMMARY.

Park	133,500
.....	67,200
rk	6,400
and Park	3,080
.....	21,800
rk	131,000
	362,980
.....	21,352

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N

The playgrounds were open from
Instructors and instructresses were
October 1st. During the school ses
open from 3:00 P. M. until 6:00 P.
until 6:00 P. M. on Saturdays and
cation the playgrounds were open fr
P. M.

GAME FIELD

Basebal

Branch Brook Park

Middle Division 7,020 11

Northern Division 4,220

Watsessing Park 2,262

Irvington Park 234 x

(13 games) x

Weequahic Park 4,176 x

(232 games) x

17,912

Branch Brook Park

Eastside

Westside

Orange

Watsessing

Anderson

Irvington

Weequahic

Westside Park Rc

Branch Brook Park 3

xPolice Records.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

rounds were open from April 1st to November 1st. and instructresses were engaged from May 15th to

During the school session the playgrounds were :00 P. M. until 6:00 P. M. and from 10:00 A. M. . M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school va- laygrounds were open from 10:00 A. M. until 6:00

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
ok Park				
ivision	7,020	118,550	4,731	32,050
Division	4,220	54,175	528	2,350
Park	2,262	10,800	1,038	3,015
ark	234 x	1,800 x	1,144 x	11,050 x
	(13 games) x	(52 games) x		
Park	4,176 x	42,950 x	2,090 x	12,300 x
	(232 games) x	(95 games) x		
	17,912	228,275	9,531	60,765

	Tennis.	Croquet.
ook Park	19,481	—
.....	997	8
.....	4,639	—
.....	113	—
.....	582	321
.....	2,044	—
.....	2,057 x	—
.....	14,474 x	—
	44,387	329

	Roque.	Cricket.
Park	356	—
ook Park	432	5,200

records.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S'

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park
Westside Park
Watsessing Park
Eastside Park
Irvington Park
Glenfield Park

GOLF.

Weequahic Park

WADING POOLS.x

Branch Brook Park
Westside Park
Orange Park
Riverbank Park
Glenfield Park
Watsessing, Bloomfield Addition

xOpened July 1st.

Games played and number of players in E.
System.

	Players.	Att
Baseball	15,912	
Football	9,531	
Tennis	44,387	
Croquet	329	
Roque	356	
Cricket	432	
Athletic Fields (Tracks) ...	28,787	
Golf	13,626	
	113,360	

MISSIONERS' REPORT

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

.....	17,715
.....	4,188
.....	3,196
.....	1,040
.....	1,284
.....	1,364
	28,787

GOLF.

.....	13,626
-------	--------

ING POOLS. x

.....	71,150
.....	77,400
.....	44,885
.....	12,010
.....	5,602
tion	3,032
	214,079

of players in Essex County Park

Players.	Attendance at games.
15,912	228,275
9,531	60,765
44,387	—
329	—
356	—
432	5,200
28,787	—
3,626	—
1,360	294,240

REPORT

OF THE

PARK COMMISSION

OF DENVER COUNTY

1910

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSION
ON
COUNTY, N. L.
1910

153
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ESSEX COUNTY,
DEPARTMENT

Twenty-first A

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COMMISS

APPOINTED U
APPROVED M

THE W. H. SHURTIS CO., PRU

COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
T M E N T O F P A R K S .

First Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1916

SHURTIS CO. Printers, 280-284 Plane Street, Newark, N. J

COMMISSIONERS AND

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....
JOHN R. HARDIN.....
FRANKLIN MURPHY.....
P. SANFORD ROSS.....

PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN MURPHY

VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR

TREASURER

JOHN R. HARDIN

SECRETARY AND

ALONZO CHURCH

ENGINEER AND SUPERVISOR

A. M. REYNOLDS

SIONERS AND OFFICERS.

SINCLAIR.....	Term Expires	1917
KIDDER.....	“ “	1918
DIN.....	“ “	1919
MURPHY.....	“ “	1920
ROSS.....	“ “	1921

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

REPORT

810 Broad

The Essex County Park Commission has issued its twenty-first annual report.

No new park bonds were issued. The Commission, however, made an appropriation of \$500,000 from the State of Chosen Freeholders for \$500,000 for the improvement of a park in the City of Newark, and it is expected that the park will be available during the coming season. The park was taken in obedience to an act of the Legislature which was endorsed by the people at the election of 1915. The section in question was the section in the last report, rapidly becoming cities therein are very much needed.

The year 1916 was notable for the celebration of the founding of the parks had their full share in the celebration. The celebration at Quahic Park was the scene of the most important event held on the evening of May 31 and 2nd. The southern end of the park was the natural amphitheatre, and here a lagoon excavated and a stage was built on a ground of trees. In these beautiful grounds under fair summer skies voluntary and beautifully costumed events in the history of New Jersey were presented. Treat and his fellow Puritans

REPORT.

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
January 1st, 1917.

County Park Commission presents herewith annual report.

Bonds were issued during the past year. The Board, however, made requisition on the Board of Aldermen for \$500,000 for the purchase and construction of a park in the Vailsburg section of the city, and it is expected that the funds will be available in the coming summer. This action was in accordance with an act of the Legislature, which was passed by the people at the polls in November. The situation in question is, as was noted in the report of last year, rapidly becoming congested, and park facilities are very much needed.

1916 was notable as marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the City of Newark, and the city took full share in the civic celebration. Weehawken was the scene of the greatest activity. The most important was the historical pageant given on the evening of May 30th, 31st and June 1st and the northern end of the park includes a sort of amphitheatre, and here seats were erected, a small platform and a stage placed against a back-screens. In these beautiful open air surroundings summer skies volunteer performers, carefully and beautifully costumed, portrayed the leading events in the history of Newark—the coming of Robert the first and his fellow Puritans from Connecticut, the

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

establishment of the church and town governments which for many years were one, the visits of Washington, of Lafayette, Kossuth and Lincoln, and other incidents of local interest. The performances closed with an allegorical masque representing the development of the Puritan Spirit in the progressive Newark of today. It is estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 people attended every performance and it is gratifying to add that there was no disorder, nor were there any accidents. It may be mentioned in passing, that the pageant occupied a portion of the Golf Course and the lagoon, above mentioned, has been deepened, supplied with running water and left as an extra hazard on the second hole. In this same amphitheatre on May 28th was held a united religious service, at which all creeds were represented and which was attended by 10,000 worshippers.

The Road Horse Association of New Jersey arranged an elaborate program of races throughout the summer months that brought large numbers of horsemen from all over the country to participate. The new Grand Stand, and the additional stalls for the accommodation of the horses, which were described in the report for 1916, were fortunately ready in due time and were of great use during the festivities. On July 20th, 21st and 22nd the League of Amateur Driving Clubs held a meet. On August 23rd and 24th the International Bait and Fly Casting Tournament was held and on September 8th and 9th the Field and Track National Championships A. A. U. The Committee in charge of the Celebration—which had also contributed toward the erection of the new horse stalls—constructed for these athletic events a quarter-mile track with the finish opposite the Grand Stand. It is in the oval surrounded by the trotting track and was formerly used exclusively for tennis. The Board has decided, however, to preserve it as a permanent feature

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

of the park in order that athletic organizations may have ample facilities in the future for this kind of sport. Among the other interesting events connected with the celebration in this park was the placing by the children of the South Side High School of a bronze tablet on the pavilion erected by the Commission on Divident Hill. It was here in 1668 that the representatives of Newark and Elizabeth met to fix the boundary line between the two municipalities. As it is now included within the limits of this park the Board deemed it appropriate to crown its summit with a somewhat elaborate pavilion, and on this the children placed their tribute.

As can readily be imagined from this short summary, the parks were unusually crowded with visitors and the facilities they offered for open air enjoyment were utilized as never before. The use would have been far greater had it not been for the epidemic of infantile paralysis. This plague began to be serious about the middle of July and by order of the health authorities all the park playgrounds were closed to children under twelve, the usual enjoyment of the sand court, the wading pool and the athletic apparatus was denied them, and they were not even allowed the joy of a summer picnic. For this reason the usual statistics in regard to playground attendance will be omitted from this report.

The new Administration Building at Branch Brook Park, which was fully described in the report of 1914, has been completed and will be occupied shortly after the first of the year. The grounds about the building will be improved in the spring. One of the serious problems confronting the Commission is that of the reconstruction of the roadways at Branch Brook and the older parks. These pavements are of macadam and were built before the advent of motor car traffic, which has entirely changed

the method of road construction. While they are entirely satisfactory for horse-drawn vehicles, they will not withstand the present traffic and are especially rough in the spring, when the frost is leaving the ground. Some method must be devised to secure the money to undertake their reconstruction. The entire cost of the work in the parks where it is needed, that is, in Branch Brook Park, Orange Park and East Orange Parkway will be considerable, exclusive of South Orange Avenue, Brookside Drive, Cherry Lane and Prospect Avenue. The Commission hoped to be able to rebuild in small sections year by year, using a portion of its maintenance therefor. The great increase in the cost of materials, as well as of labor, however, has rendered it impossible to do more than maintain the parks in their present state without attempting any reconstruction. And even this becomes difficult with the funds at the disposal of the Board and requires the greatest care in management. At some propitious time a new bond issue or an increased maintenance fund seems to be the only solution. The Commission, however, was able to replace the telford paving of Park Avenue within the park from Lake Street to the Morris Canal, a distance of 1,250 feet. A total of 7,736 square yards of bituminous pavement was laid. The cost was \$11,522.38.

The addition to Weequahic Park—the territory between the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Elizabeth Avenue—has been fully completed and opened to the enjoyment of the public. An attractive driveway begins at the corner of Elizabeth and Meeker Avenues and runs along the high ground overlooking the lake to the east and finally joining the old roadway near the bridge over the Lehigh Valley Railroad. This section contains, besides the pavilion on Divident Hill, above mentioned, a wading pool and sand court for young children, a children's shelter and a com-

fort station. The Board has also planted here a hardy garden, in which the visitor may see and enjoy throughout the succeeding summer months the various flowers and shrubs indigenous to this climate. One of the paths entering from Elizabeth Avenue is a relic of the old West Line Railroad, the right of way for which was acquired and after long being disused was abandoned. Trees had grown up on either side of it and as it made a most attractive entrance it was decided to keep it in its original state as a bit of the almost forgotten past. By a curious coincidence this same old right of way, after passing through several miles of intervening country, enters and is a part of South Mountain Reservation. Weequahic Park is the home of the wild fowl owned by the Commission—geese and ducks and swan that have been presented at various times by generous friends of the County. They have increased and multiplied in a most satisfactory manner and in order to better house and keep them and safely care for their young, a new house has been built on the shore of the lake southwest of the Grand Stand. It contains all facilities for their breeding, nesting and protection.

The Board had hoped to report a greater progress in the development of the latest additions to the system. Yanticaw Park, in the Town of Nutley, has, indeed, been practically completed and is now enjoyed by many visitors. Its location in the very heart of the municipality, with fine views of the Orange Mountains, its attractive lake and facilities for outdoor recreation make it one of the most attractive of the smaller parks. The improvement of Grover Cleveland Park in Caldwell, so called because of its location in the borough where the distinguished ex-President of the United States was born, and of Belleville Park, located on a high ridge near Second River and commanding fine views not only of the Orange

Mountains to the west, but of the meadows and high buildings of New York to the east, has proceeded more slowly than the Commission could have wished. This in large measure is accounted for by the great scarcity of construction labor, which has made rapid progress most difficult. Another drawback is the fact—so often alluded to in these reports—that the Commission was given, in the bill authorizing the acquirement and development of these parks, funds which were entirely inadequate to fully carry out the purposes contemplated by the originators of the schemes. This only serves as another argument in favor of more careful calculations on the part of those who go to the Legislature, without the knowledge of this Board, for authority to acquire and develop parks which are to become a part of the county system. As we have said before, these enterprises should be first carefully estimated, and if the Park Commission is required to engage in a new undertaking it should be assured in the first instance of sufficient funds to carry out the undertaking completely and in consonance with the highest standard of park building.

Another incomplete portion of the system is the addition to Westside Park. This is a section of land between Sixteenth and Eighteenth Avenues and Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, adjoining the park on the east. It was a low and swampy tract, on which it would be difficult, without great expense, to rear substantial buildings. The park needed enlargement, as it is largely used by the residents of that section of the City of Newark. The City of Newark was most anxious to have this Board take it over and the Commission was glad to do so. The acquirement of the title to the lands, however, was a difficult undertaking. Fifty-seven different pieces of property had to be acquired, and, owing to the disagreement as to values, many suits in condemnation became neces-

sary. The Board has at last, however, obtained good title to the entire tract, the City of Newark has officially closed Fourteenth Street, which separated it from the finished park, and it is hoped that during the coming year substantial progress may be made in its development. The plan of the Board is to utilize this new ground for playground purposes, thus releasing more of the old park territory for park development for the older generation. During the coming summer it is hoped, labor conditions permitting, that the development may rapidly proceed.

The Commission is continuing its policy in the Reservations of bringing them back as nearly as possible to a state in which they were before the hand of man began to destroy the face of nature. The old quarry at the Millburn end of South Mountain Reservation has been planted according to plans prepared by the landscape architects of the Board and already the hard gray face of the huge trap rock cliff is being softened by little clumps of green. It is not purposed to completely cover it with verdure, but to so screen it as to make it more nearly harmonize with its leafy surroundings. From this quarry came also a memorial of the celebration of Newark's birth, alluded to above. A splendid granite boulder, given by this Board, now stands in Washington Park, Newark, on which is a bronze tablet, marking the site of the first academy in the town. In pursuance of its policy to take the visitors here, as far as possible, back to nature, the Commission last year devised a scheme to inaugurate a fishing preserve in the Reservation. A little stream runs through the valley connecting the two reservoirs which form part of the water supply of the City of Orange. The clear, cool water made an excellent habitat for trout. The Board, therefore, appealed to the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission to stock the stream and permit, under proper restriction, its use by followers of Izaak

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Walton. President Napier of the State Commission entered heartily into the plan, and the City of Orange, which controls the water, gave its unqualified consent, and so, through the frank co-operation of three municipal corporations, a fishing preserve was established which is one of the best, perhaps, in New Jersey. The Fish and Game Commission consented to stock the stream, putting in each Friday at least 500 trout, all over six inches long. The City of Orange allowed its waters to be so used. The Park Commission provided police to see that the laws of the State and the rules adopted for sanitation and conservation were not violated. It was felt that this experiment should be tried and if the public appreciated the opportunity and did not abuse the privilege it should become a permanency. Rules were adopted to govern and control the fishing. For example, a State license to fish and a permit from the Commission were required. No wading in the brook was permitted. No fishing on Friday or on Sunday was allowed, on Friday because on that day each week the stream was restocked. No one should take but six fish in one day. The plan has met with complete success. The public has shown its appreciation by carefully obeying all the rules laid down, and the officers in charge have not found it necessary to apprehend a single offender against the rules. It is doubtful if there is another park commission in this country that can offer such an attraction to the public and the Board takes this opportunity to thank the broad-minded authorities of the City of Orange and President Napier of the Fish and Game Commission, public spirited and far seeing, for their hearty co-operation in adding this new attraction to the Reservation and giving this additional pleasure to the citizens of Essex County and to the public.

It should also be said that there is at Branch Brook and Weequahic Park excellent bass and pickerel fishing.

The lakes are stocked through the courtesy of the Fish and Game Commission of New Jersey.

The pines, the hemlocks and the rhododendrons which the Board has been reintroducing year by year into this Reservation are making their presence felt and more and more it is getting to be as it once was before the forest fire, the vandal and the woodchopper destroyed much of its original beauty. The Board is greatly indebted to and desires to express its gratitude to Mr. William S. Hunt of the *Newark Sunday Call*, who has made a careful study of the flowers and birds in South Mountain Reservation. He has spent many hours there in careful study and his knowledge of these matters has made the exhaustive reports filed with this Board of special value. Not only has Mr. Hunt furnished the Commission with data concerning existing plants, but has at his own expense set out specimens of such wild flowers as were once indigenous to that territory but have become extinct from too wanton picking. His reports indicate 310 varieties of wild flowers and 109 varieties of birds. It is a pleasure also to record a similar interest taken in Eagle Rock Reservation by Professor Will S. Monroe, who has pursued there much the same course that Mr. Hunt has followed at South Mountain Reservation. If these public-spirited men are willing to give their time and talent to the improvement of the wild life of these great reservations—in which the Park Commission seeks to save and reproduce what was for the benefit of those who are and the generations yet to come—ought not the public to show its appreciation by refraining from picking, breaking or destroying any of these wild things. There are not enough for all to carry away. If left untouched all can enjoy them. There are laws and park regulations preventing their destruction, and if occasion requires the park officers will rigidly enforce them. The Board, how-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ever, would much prefer to feel that the public realizes that the reservations as well as the parks are its own property, and that every citizen should refrain from vandalism himself and see that others do so.

*The public has come to realize, perhaps, the value of parks from an aesthetic standpoint, to know how much they mean to the lovers of nature, the open and the green. And perhaps also the people realize the opportunities for healthful sport and exercise, but few understand how much they mean from a purely material and financial point of view. During the past year the Board engaged the services of an expert to make a report as to the actual value in dollars and cents of the County Park System. There are under the control of this Board fourteen parks and reservations. Our expert reported on but four, but the increase in valuations of property due directly to the location of these alone was so great that the Board did not deem it necessary to go further for proof of the immense monetary value of a properly considered park plan. The report was made on four of the Newark parks—Eastside, Westside, Weequahic and Branch Brook. The reports themselves are published in full as appendices to this report. The following is taken from a summary published in the *Newark Sunday Call*:*

"The reports show that the parks themselves have increased in value from \$1,000,000 to more than \$5,000,000, but this increase of \$4,000,000 is not emphasized, as it is not available for taxing purposes. The property immediately adjoining the four parks named was assessed in 1905 for \$4,143,850, and in 1916 for \$29,266,000, an increase of \$25,122,150, or 606.3 per cent. At the same time property in the same taxing district and perhaps not wholly outside of what may be called the 'park influence,' was assessed in 1905 at \$36,606,907, and in 1916 at \$111,531,725, a gain of \$74,924,818, or 204.6 per cent. In

plainer words, while the property adjoining the parks has increased more than six times in value, property in the remainder of the same taxing districts has about doubled in value.

"If the increase in valuations adjoining these parks had been the same as in other property in the same taxing districts, and no more, it would have been \$8,453,454, leaving an increase as a result of the parks of \$16,668,700. The fortunate owners of this property have been enriched by this large sum beyond what they would have been had the parks not been established.

"But this is not all. The cost of these four parks was \$4,241,540. The increase is enough to pay for them four times. The cost of all the parks in the county was \$6,929,625.47—say \$7,000,000. The increase of property adjoining these four parks alone, beyond what it would have been if the parks had not been constructed, is sufficient to pay for all the parks in the county 2.4 times, and the increase from the other parks in the county, while not so great in proportion, is undoubtedly much more than their cost. The increased revenue to the county is already sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund charges on the bonds issued for park construction, and almost the entire cost of the annual maintenance."

Thus it will be seen that the parks of Essex County have a high financial value quite apart from that other value, not ascertainable in accurate figures, of beauty, enjoyment, health and recreation. It is hardly possible within the limits of a brief report to speak in detail of the many and varied uses which the public make of its park system. Thousands enjoy its game fields, its lakes, its broad stretches of lawns, its beautiful views, its drives and walks and forests. They are known now to almost every citizen of Essex County and it is safe to say that the people would be unwilling to part with them for many times their cost.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The Commission has given serious consideration to the question of Sunday sports within the territory under its jurisdiction.

At present the State law passed in 1792 prohibits Sunday games and the game fields and playgrounds are therefore closed. It is true that the statute excepts from its prohibition children under fourteen. It is, however, entirely impractical to make age a standard of playground use. The Commission feels that a large majority of the public would approve of Sunday games if carefully supervised and regulated. It is in its opinion more wholesome for young people to engage in clean and healthy exercises within proper surroundings at any time than to walk the streets or frequent private pleasure grounds, where the influences are not always for the best. The use of the playgrounds could be properly regulated. Moreover, in neighborhoods where the majority of the citizens object, they need not be open at all. The parks are for all the people and there should exist the authority to permit their use as the public wishes and demands. The public should not be hampered in its enjoyment of the parks by a law passed one hundred and twenty years ago, when the feeling of the community was entirely different from what it is now.

The Commission therefore announces its intention to apply to the Legislature for power to throw open the playgrounds for such use as it deems not inconsistent with proper Sabbath observance.

The report of the Treasurer and the reports of the expert on park values are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1916**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

CONSTRUCTION—1916.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1916.....	\$338,797.94
Received from Essex County.....	\$ 30,000.00
Interest	4,091.94
	<u>34,091.94</u>
	\$372,889.88

DISBURSEMENTS.

Land—

Westside Park	\$ 30,041.31
Grover Cleveland Park.....	53.65
Yanticaw Park	27.00
Parkways	118.69
	<u>30,240.65</u>

Construction—

Branch Brook Park.....	\$ 47,773.92
Weequahic Park	81,680.20
Westside Park	144.71
Irvington	8,563.18
Grover Cleveland Park.....	4,243.45
Yanticaw Park	14,710.16
Belleville Park	12,240.31
	<u>169,355.93</u>

ITEMS.

Grading .....	.....
Paving and Sewerage....	\$ 777.92
Trees and Plants.....	1,928.26
Labor	32,119.38
Tools and Implements..	500.93
Buildings and Bridges..	132,709.83
Gardening .....	.....
Fences and Fountains..	1,319.61
	<u>\$169,355.93</u>

Office—

Legal Expenses	\$ 2,151.50
Architects and Engineers.....	17,227.77
	<u>19,379.27</u>
Cash on hand December 31st, 1916.....	153,914.03
	<u>\$372,889.88</u>

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE—1916.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1916.....	\$	422.31
Received from Essex County.....	\$310,000.00	
Rents	7,059.85	
Interest	3,014.97	
Miscellaneous	4,237.00	
	<u>324,311.82</u>	
		\$324,734.13

DISBURSEMENTS.

Parks, Reservations and Parkways—

Branch Brook Park.....	\$ 80,219.89
Weequahic Park	73,012.33
Eastside Park	8,351.82
Westside Park	12,680.04
Orange Park	11,805.96
Watsessing Park	19,776.01
Anderson Park	2,953.59
Riverbank Park	4,628.79
Irvington Park	8,369.24
Glenfield Park	8,239.22
Grover Cleveland Park.....	970.43
Yanticaw Park	4,681.19
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	8,498.92
South Mountain Reservation.....	25,544.76
East Orange Parkway.....	6,723.90
Park Avenue	25,155.48
Prospect Avenue	2,786.54
	<u>304,398.11</u>

ITEMS.

Wages—Policemen	\$ 50,018.49
Wages—Labor	162,266.83
Tools and Supplies.....	92,112.79

\$304,398.11

Office—

Traveling	\$ 229.75
Stationery and Printing.....	2,578.04
Office Supplies	202.88
Salaries	14,431.24
Rents and Telephones.....	2,811.12
	<u>20,253.03</u>

Cash on hand December 31st, 1916.....	82.99
	<u>\$324,734.13</u>

JOHN R. HARDIN,
Treasurer.

December 31, 1916.

**This is to certify that I have examined the books of the
Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for
1916, and I find all items correctly stated.**

**S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).**

STATISTICS.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Newark, N. J., March 2nd, 1917.

Mr. Alonzo Church, Secretary,
Essex County Park Commission,
Newark, N. J.

My Dear Mr. Church:

I am submitting herewith report on Eastside Park and the surrounding territory for a depth of two hundred feet in all directions from the park site, together with the assessed values as placed in 1895, and those placed on the same properties in 1916.

You will note that in 1895 the property which is now used as a park site was assessed at \$52,100, while the same property in 1916 was valued by our Board at \$145,500. This amount is arrived at by computing the land value of the park at the same valuation per foot as placed on other property in the immediate vicinity.

The total assessed value of property surrounding the park site for a depth of two hundred feet in 1895 was \$136,100, and the same property in 1916 was assessed at \$1,207,400. Comparing this particular section with that of the entire Tenth Taxing District, in which the park is located, and which was originally the Tenth Ward, the result would be as follows:

Tenth Taxing District assessed in 1895.....	\$5,905,840
Less assessed value of land surrounding park site	136,100

Value of Tenth Taxing District minus the
property surrounding the park site.....\$5,769,740

This same property in 1916 had an assessed value of \$12,986,005, or two and one-quarter times the value which it had in 1895, while the property immediately surrounding the park site has increased in value almost nine times.

As a further means of comparison we will take the

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Fifth Taxing District, which is located immediately east of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and which was originally known as the Fifth Ward. In 1895 this taxing district had a value of \$4,116,250, and in 1916 the value of same was \$5,834,225, an increase of but \$1,717,975.

We will also take the Twelfth Taxing District, which is located below the railroad and was originally the Twelfth Ward, beginning at Madison Street and running easterly to the Passaic River and Meadows. This district in 1895 was assessed at \$9,191,515, and in 1916 this value had grown to \$18,402,475, just doubled up. It does look as if the park influence has had a very material effect on property values in the immediate vicinity, as the figures show that this property increased in value almost nine times, whereas the balance of the Tenth Ward increased two and one-quarter times, the Twelfth Ward but twice, and the Fifth Ward less than one-half.

All of this property which is situated below the railroad is of the same general character, and used for the same purposes, namely, dwellings, tenements and manufactories, with a few streets, such as Ferry and Market, having stores, and I think the comparisons made are fair and equitable and show beyond a doubt that the enhancement in the values of the property bordering on the park site has been due in a very large measure to the general improvement in the character of the neighborhood brought about by the establishing of the Eastside Park.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOHN HOWE.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Newark, N. J., March 13th, 1917.

Mr. Alonzo Church, Secretary,
Essex County Park Commission,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:—

I am submitting herewith report on Westside Park and the surrounding territory for a depth of two hundred feet, together with the assessed values of same for the year 1896 and those placed by our Board in 1916:

In 1896 the property now used as a park was
assessed at\$ 66,340

This property computed at the same rate per
foot as surrounding property showed a value
in 1916 of..... 176,100

The property surrounding the park for a depth
of two hundred feet was assessed in 1896 at 88,425

In 1916 this same property had grown in
assessed value to..... 1,318,575

Comparing this particular section with that of the entire Sixth Taxing District, in which Westside Park is located and which comprises the territory bounded on the east by High Street, on the north by Bank Street, on the west by the city line at Irvington, and on the south by Springfield Avenue, the result is as follows:

Sixth Taxing District assessed in 1896 at....\$10,020,525

Less assessed value of property surrounding
park for a depth of two hundred feet..... 88,425

Value of Sixth Taxing District in 1896
minus the property surrounding park....\$ 9,932,100

This same property in 1916 was assessed as follows:

Sixth Taxing District.....\$29,620,025

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Less assessed value of property surrounding
park for a depth of two hundred feet..... 1,318,575

Value of Sixth Taxing District in 1916
minus property surrounding park.....\$28,301,450

As a further means of comparison I will take the Thirteenth Taxing District, which adjoins the Sixth Taxing District on the south and includes the territory bounded on the north by Springfield Avenue, on the west by the city line at Irvington, on the south by Avon Avenue, and on the east by High Street:

This district in 1896 was assessed at.....\$10,143,935

In 1916 the assessed value of the same territory was 29,862,500

It will therefore be seen that the property surrounding the park for a depth of two hundred feet increased in value in twenty years from \$88,425 to \$1,318,575, almost fifteen times, while the property in the Sixth Taxing District exclusive of that portion surrounding the park had grown from \$9,932,100 to \$28,301,450, a little less than three times, and the property in the district adjoining (the Thirteenth) increased from \$10,143,935 to \$29,862,500, about the same proportion as the Sixth.

The neighborhoods of both the Sixth and Thirteenth Taxing Districts are of the same general character, Springfield Avenue being the dividing line, the Sixth comprising the section lying on the northerly side and the Thirteenth the section on the southerly side. The increase in values seems to be about normal and the comparisons, I think, are of a fair nature.

With respect to the territory surrounding Westside Park, I have every reason to believe that this particular section would not have increased in value above the normal, as shown in the other portion of the Sixth and Thir-

teenth, were it not for some peculiar influence, and I can attribute this influence to no other cause than that of the establishment of the park. The fact that it has enhanced in value almost fifteen times in twenty years, as compared with less than three times for the other sections of "The Hill," demonstrates to me conclusively the unlimited value improvements of this character bring to a neighborhood.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOHN HOWE.

Newark, N. J., March 23rd, 1917.

Mr. Alonzo Church, Secretary,
Essex County Park Commission,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:—

I am submitting herewith report on Weequahic Park, together with figures showing the assessed values of this property at the time Clinton Township was annexed to the City of Newark, also information relative to the values of property in the entire section of what was originally Clinton Township, and the values of the Fourteenth Taxing District for the years 1902 and 1916. The latter district was originally known as the Fourteenth Ward.

Clinton Township, I learn, was annexed to Newark in 1902, so that the figures regarding the assessed value of this territory for 1895, the year in which the major portion of Weequahic Park was acquired, are not available, and it will therefore be necessary for me to use the values as of 1902 for comparative purposes, as these seem to be the earliest ones in the possession of the city. In fact, there are no figures at all available for that portion of Weequahic Park lying between the Lehigh Valley Rail-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

road and Dayton Street, for the reason that at the time Clinton Township was annexed to Newark this particular portion was already converted into a park and was not taxable, and no value whatever seems to have been placed on same.

Figuring the value of the land, however, in this particular portion of the park at the same rate per acre as that placed on the strip lying between Elizabeth Avenue and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, namely, \$964, would give a value in 1902 for the entire park of \$304,624.

The park in 1916 was valued by our Board at \$1,675,000.

The section lying between Elizabeth Avenue and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, the only portion of which assessment figures are available, was taxed in 1902 at a valuation of \$52,700, and this land figured at the same rate per foot as the land on the opposite side of Elizabeth Avenue shows a value in 1916 of \$342,100.

Weequahic Park is situated in the Sixteenth Taxing District, and this taxing district comprises the territory formerly known as Clinton Township. It extends from Chadwick Avenue to the city line at Irvington, and from Avon Avenue to the Union County line. This territory, owing to its large area, was divided into subdistricts known as Sixteen A and Sixteen B, Hawthorne Avenue east of Clinton Place and Lyons Avenue west of Clinton Place being the dividing lines, Sixteen A comprising the section lying on the north and Sixteen B the section on the south.

You will note that the park, also the surrounding section known as Weequahic, are located in Sixteen B, and the total assessed value of this section in 1902, excluding the park itself, was \$793,395, whereas in 1916 the value of same had grown to \$11,233,570, more than fourteen times.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Sixteen A, located north of Hawthorne and Lyons Avenues, has no park within its boundaries and was assessed in 1902 at \$1,843,825.

In 1916 the value of same was \$12,380,000, the increase representing less than seven times.

Now both Sixteen A and Sixteen B seem to have developed along similar lines; there are some fine houses and some rather cheap ones in both districts, with very little business in either, the regions being practically all residential.

The growth in value in Sixteen B is fourteen times, while the growth in Sixteen A represents less than seven times. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that Weequahic Park has been responsible for the beautiful development of the largest portion of Sixteen B, and I am inclined to think that the park influences even extend to the district north of Lyons and Hawthorne Avenues, which we designate as Sixteen A, and while the latter district is some distance from the park itself, nevertheless I am of the opinion that it has enjoyed peculiar benefits which contributed very largely to its growth and development along the lines of a good residential district.

As a further means of showing the large growth of the Weequahic section, as compared with other sections, I have taken the Fourteenth Taxing District, which adjoins the Sixteenth Taxing District on the east, and comprises the old Fourteenth Ward. This district is bounded on the north by Clinton and Avon Avenues, on the west by Chadwick Avenue, on the east by Broad Street and Frelinghuysen Avenue, and on the south by Hawthorne Avenue.

In 1902 the district had a valuation of \$7,026,865, and in 1916 it had grown to \$20,602,200, less than three times, as against fourteen times for Sixteen B and seven times for Sixteen A.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

This district is made up largely of dwellings and apartments, with considerable business development along Clinton Avenue, from Belmont to Chadwick Avenue. Certain portions are of a highly residential character, and I have no doubt that the park influences even extend over at least a part of this territory, and considering the fact that the Fourteenth Taxing District, with its large business development in what is known as the Clinton Hill section and its large residential neighborhood surrounding same, with perhaps some help due to park influences in the lower division, has shown but an increase of three times in the assessed value, gives us an idea of the wonderful development that has taken place in the Weequahic section, where values have increased fourteen fold.

The tendency of the district in which the park is located seems to be to go much further ahead. There is considerable land yet undeveloped and the fact that the establishing of the park, comprising such a large area, about three hundred and sixteen acres, assures people contemplating the building of residences in this section, that that portion of it at least cannot be used for the erection of factories or other unsightly structures, has great merit. Besides, the beautiful lake, where boating and canoeing, I understand, are very popular, together with the tennis courts, playgrounds, etc., all of which are conducive to good health and happiness, will continue to have an influence which, in my opinion, will promote the further development of this section very materially.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOHN HOWE.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Newark, N. J., April 20th, 1917.

Mr. Alonzo Church, Secretary,
Essex County Park Commission,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:—

I am submitting herewith report on Branch Brook Park, together with figures showing the assessed value of the park and the territory included in the area extending from Mt. Prospect Avenue to the park and Morris Canal, and from Sixth Avenue to the Second River, for the years 1895 and 1916; also values of other sections in the city for comparative purposes for the same years.

In 1895 the property that is now Branch Brook Park had an assessed value of \$577,798, and in 1916 the value placed on this property by the Newark Tax Board was \$3,016,700.

The territory bounded by Mt. Prospect Avenue, Branch Brook, and the Morris Canal, Sixth Avenue and Second River was assessed in 1895 for a total value of \$3,125,930, and this same territory in 1916 had an assessed value of \$15,506,455, an increase of about five times.

As a matter of comparison I have taken the Eighth Taxing District, which comprises the territory from Eighth Avenue to the Belleville line and from the Passaic River to the Morris Canal, deducting the value of the park and the zone west of Mt. Prospect Avenue from Sixth Avenue to Second River for the same years:

1895.

Entire Eighth Taxing District Assessed at...\$14,702,870
Less value of park and zone adjacent..... 3,703,728

Value of Eighth Taxing District minus park
and zone adjacent.....\$10,999,142

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

1916.

Entire Eighth Taxing District Assessed at...\$46,237,425
Less value of park and zone adjacent..... 18,523,155

Value of Eighth Taxing District minus park
and zone adjacent.....\$27,714,270

An increase of about two and one-half times.

I will also show the Eleventh Taxing District, which adjoins the park on the west and extends from South Orange Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue, and from Morris Avenue and the Morris Canal to South Twentieth Street and the East Orange line:

In 1895 this district was assessed at.....\$ 8,062,100

In 1916 the same territory had an assessed
value of 30,150,000

An increase of about three and two-thirds times.

The normal increase for the period from 1895 to 1916 for the entire city, less the value of parks and surrounding properties, seems to be about three times, the exact figures being three and one-twelfth times, and it will therefore be seen that the sections adjacent to the four parks have increased very materially above the normal:

Eastside showing an increase of nine times;

Westside showing an increase of fifteen times;

Weequahic showing an increase of fourteen times;

Branch Brook showing an increase of five times;

while the other portion of the Eighth Taxing District (where Branch Brook is located) showed but two and one-half times; the Sixteenth Taxing District (in which Weequahic is located), seven times; the Sixth Taxing District (in which Westside Park is situated), three times, and the Tenth Taxing District (where Eastside Park is located), two and one-quarter times.

The Eleventh Taxing District, you will note, shows an increase of three and two-thirds times. The northerly end of this district adjoins Branch Brook Park, lying

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

immediately west of the Morris Canal, and there is no doubt in my mind that the park influences have had a beneficial effect on the entire northerly end of this district.

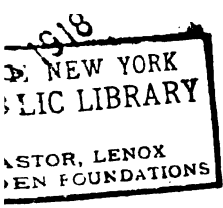
While the zone adjacent to Branch Brook Park does not show as large a percentage increase as Eastside, Westside or Weequahic, this, I think, is due to the fact that it covers a very large area, part of which is still undeveloped. Parker street, from Delavan to Elwood Avenue, for instance, was not opened until 1915, and Highland Avenue, from Delavan to Elwood, is not opened up as yet, while Ridge Street and Clifton Avenue in this particular section have been opened but about three years.

Furthermore, the character of dwellings in the Forest Hill section is such that the district is not as closely built up as the other sections, in many cases one house occupying as much land as two, three, and in some cases four or more houses in other parts of the city. It can, therefore, be seen that a block closely built or even with small spaces between the houses is very apt to have a greater value than a block with but a few houses and large grounds, even though the latter houses are of a higher class and cost more to build.

The building records of the city show there has been less construction work since the beginning of the European war than previously, owing to the high cost of materials and labor, and while this condition would naturally affect other portions of the city as well as the zone adjacent to Branch Brook Park, nevertheless the fact that the other portions have been opened up and developed for a longer period is largely in their favor.

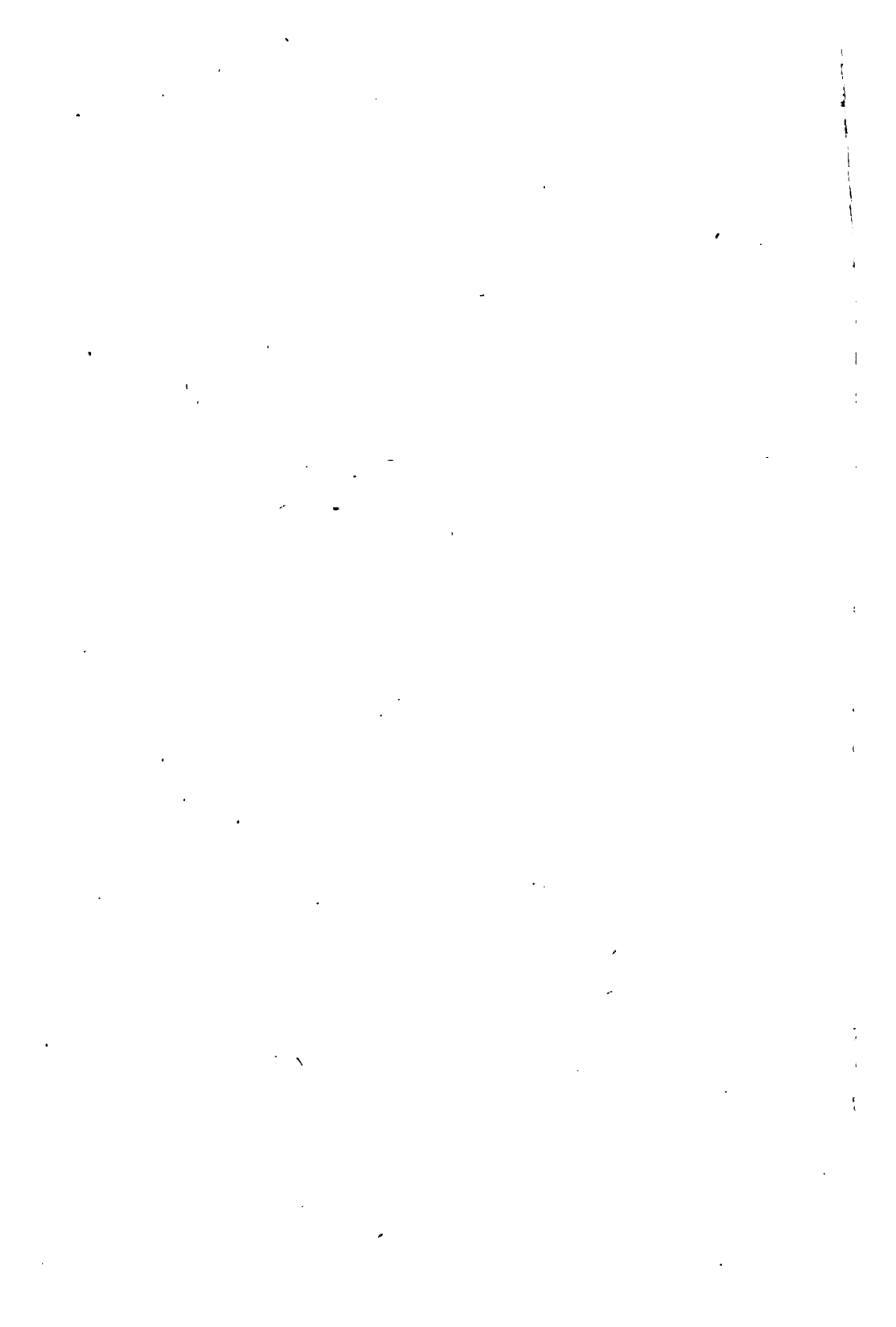
When building operations get back to normal, however, I have no doubt that the large unimproved areas of the Forest Hill section will add very materially to the value of the district. I remain, Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOHN HOWE.



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REPORT
OF THE
 PARK COMMISSION
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1917



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twenty-second Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT

APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1917

THE W. H. SHIVERS CO., Printers, 230-234 Plane Street, Newark, N. J.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS.

CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	Term Expires	1918
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	" "	1919
FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	" "	1920
P. SANFORD ROSS.....	" "	1921
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	" "	1922

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

45 - 6 11

REPORT.

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

January 1st, 1918.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-second annual report:

At the instance of the people of the Vailsburg section of Newark, the Legislature of 1915 enacted a law which provided for the issuance of \$500,000 worth of bonds for the creation of a park in that section.

The bill provided for a referendum, and on November 2, 1915 the people of the County, at a general election, endorsed the project. This Board for some time hesitated to ask for the issuance of the bonds, but after a careful survey of the conditions in that locality decided that a park as contemplated by the act would be a desirable addition to the County park system. The bonds were accordingly issued by the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the proceeds turned over to this Board in September 1917. War conditions had by that time so far developed that the Commission felt it would be justified only in securing the necessary property, which, if not acquired, might be built upon and perhaps by elaborate improvement, rendered too expensive for appropriation by the County. The property finally decided upon as most available for the purpose had for a long time been used as an amusement park and it was the earnest desire of the people of the neighborhood that the Commission make it a part of the park system.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

This Board has accordingly acquired the major part of the land in what will eventually be known as Vailsburg Park. It has not deemed it wise, however, to proceed with its improvement at present. During the period of the war the Commission is doing only such work as is absolutely necessary to keep intact the park system which has cost the County several millions of dollars, and which is the source of enjoyment to so many thousands of its citizens. The Board believes that it is its duty to preserve for the public what already exists in the way of public pleasure grounds, but not at this time to add to the burdens of public taxation by the issuance of any further park bonds. Moreover, it is deemed unwise to absorb labor and materials for park projects, which might otherwise be used in ways more helpful to the common cause. So strongly did the Board hold this belief that it declined to ask at this time for a bond issue of \$400,000 which the Legislature of 1916 authorized for the extension of Branch Brook Park. The scheme contemplated adding to the present park area a large tract of land north of Fredonia Avenue and now used by the Forest Hill Golf Club. There is no doubt that such an addition would greatly improve the present park. It would increase its usefulness to the public, add several picturesque features, and would link Branch Brook Park with that in Belleville, thus continuing the system unbroken for several miles, and opening the way for a parkway to the north and perhaps the Orange Mountain. Attractive as this scheme is, the Commission felt that its duty to the taxpayers and the public in these times of

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

stress and danger would be not to elaborate and extend but only to protect and preserve. What the County already has must be maintained, but any additions to the system however desirable from an aesthetic point of view must await the return of normal times. The Commission takes this occasion, therefore, to say that until general conditions change it will not favor nor countenance any plans which look to additions to the park system, unless it may be for neighborhood parks in congested districts. It will content itself with maintaining as far as may be the parks as they have been in the past, and preserve them for the purpose of their original construction, the enjoyment and pleasure of the citizens of the County. On account of the increased cost and great shortage of both labor and materials even this is becoming more difficult. Economy will be practiced in every possible way, but the parks will not be allowed to deteriorate. The investment of the people will not be suffered to decrease, and the areas set aside for public pleasure grounds will be carefully preserved for those purposes and those purposes alone.

In accordance with the above ideas very little new work has been accomplished during the past year. The new Administration Building which was erected two years ago has been completed by the improvement of the adjoining grounds. They have been simply but attractively embellished with plants and shrubbery, new walks laid on Sixth, Clifton and Mt. Prospect Avenues and the Lombardy poplars at the southern edge, planted twenty years ago, have been trimmed and pruned. The

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

old Administration Building at 60 Clifton Avenue, formerly a saloon and dance hall, which served as the administration headquarters until the growth of the system rendered it entirely inadequate, is still standing. The Board offered its use to the United States Government for any purpose which might be of assistance to it, but the authorities have not as yet utilized it. Moreover, it seems useless to tear it down while the old Pumping Station adjoining it still stands. This was, in former years, used by the City of Newark in connection with its water supply. It is now vacant, and makes an ugly break in the beautiful parklike territory that surrounds it, and into which it intrudes in a most offensive manner. The Commission has repeatedly attempted to persuade the City authorities to turn over its care, custody and control to this Board, as was done in former years with the eighty acres adjoining. Could this be accomplished several acres could be added to the park area, and without any appreciable expense a considerable amount of ground now utterly useless could be turned over to the public for its comfort and enjoyment. It is to be hoped that those in control will in time come to see the wisdom of this course and will be brought to cooperate with the Commission in developing this great playground for the people. Branch Brook Park is becoming every year more beautiful and more of an example of what a city park should be. Each summer its lakes are crowded with canoes and boats and, in the season, with eager fishermen who find in the depth of the waters fine sport in angling for the fish that the State Fish and Game

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commission yearly places there. Its lawns are occupied with boys and girls intent on various games, and its plantations grow in beauty with succeeding seasons. It is no wonder that the finest residential section of Newark adjoins this park, and some of the best of our civic structures have arisen near it, notably the magnificent Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Weequahic Park has also been developed, but only along conservative lines. Nature here also has been allowed to have her way and the beginnings of twenty years ago show their development in increased beauty of trees and shrubs, lawns, and flowers. In the addition west of the Lehigh Valley Railroad the Comfort Station, Children's Shelter and the Rest House on Dividend Hill mentioned in a former report, were completed and opened this season.

The golf course continues to be as popular as ever and the Board is considering, when normal times shall come again, enlarging the facilities of the golf house, and the addition of a refreshment station. The filling in of the swamp just west of the lake is gradually being completed and when this area is filled the last breeding place of the mosquito within the limits of the Park System will have been eliminated. The race track has been steadily improved, and is now rated as one of the best in the east. The New Jersey Road Horse Association has held weekly matinees upon it, and they have always been a great attraction to the public which gathers in vast crowds on Saturday afternoons to watch the racing. The running track and athletic ground con-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

structed within the oval at the time of Newark's 250th Celebration have been preserved and improved and are a source of great enjoyment to the public.

At Yanticaw Park in Nutley the Field House and Children's Shelter were opened to the people this spring.

A flag pole 100 feet in height has been placed near the field house on the axis of the wall running west of Passaic Ave. A pole of the same height was also located near the new field house at Irvington Park. Flag poles have now been erected in all the completed parks and Old Glory can be seen each day until sunset—a lesson in patriotism and an inspiration to every citizen.

To carry out its policy of aiding in every possible way the conduct of the war the Commission decided that instead of seeding the lawns at Belleville and Grover Cleveland Parks, it would, for a season or two at least, turn them to a more practical use. It, therefore, planted them with corn and also utilized certain portions of South Mountain Reservation for corn and potatoes. In past years the Board has raised sufficient corn to care for its horses, deer and water fowl, but last year the output was much larger. About four thousand bushels of corn and five hundred bushels of potatoes were produced. In addition to this fifty thousand tomato plants were raised in the park greenhouses at Branch Brook Park and turned over to the various municipal authorities for distribution where most needed. Owing to the fuel shortage the Board directed that all wood that could be spared from Eagle Rock and South Mountain Reservation be cut and distributed at moderate prices through the proper

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authorities. There was no attempt to denude or to destroy the forests, and only such thinning as would be of benefit to the woodlands was done. Thick groves were thinned under the advice of experts, the dead wood was cleared away, and the Board made an effort to produce as much cord wood as possible to relieve the shortage without any injury to its forest growths. The result was very gratifying. The process cost the County nothing. The forests were decidedly benefitted by the undertaking and a large amount of fuel was made available to the public at reasonable prices at a time when it was sorely needed.

The parks were thrown open to every possible form of patriotic endeavor, compatible with their proper maintenance. Military organizations drilled in them constantly. Loyal services were held frequently. The various militia companies held manoeuvres in South Mountain Reservation and at Weequahic and Branch Brook Parks. The Board turned over the Casino at Eagle Rock Reservation to the Government for experimental purposes and provided a police guard to insure the proper privacy and protection. Even in the park playgrounds the spirit of patriotism was inculcated. It is the custom each year to form classes in sewing, embroidery and basketry among the little ones who come to the parks. This year the children were taught to make the simple articles desired by the Red Cross and about fourteen hundred were turned out and accepted by the authorities. The materials were furnished by the Red Cross Chapters where the several playgrounds are located.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

Every employee of the Commission except the laborers subscribed to the Liberty Loan, and the Essex County Park Commission War Savings Society is a flourishing organization to advance the sale of Thrift Stamps. The Board can also state with pride that several of its employees have entered the service of the country, and takes pleasure in saying also that their places are considered open to them when they return from their country's service.

Thus it will be seen that although there is not as much to say this year as usual in regard to the progress of park development, the very brevity of this report is due to the fact that the Commission has limited its activities in this period of war to those of preservation. Expansion must await more normal times. But in every possible way the Board will strive to use the facilities at its command to teach the lesson all must learn—devotion to a common cause, a common country and the freedom of mankind.

The report of the Treasurer and the table of playground statistics are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1917**

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

CONSTRUCTION. 1917.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1917.....	\$ 153,914.03
Received from Essex County	\$498,796.39
Interest	2,680.61
	<u>\$ 501,477.00</u>
	\$ 655,391.03

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND:

Branch Brook Park	\$ 1,268.67
Westside Park	1,955.93
Vailsburg Park	253,684.79
	<u>\$ 256,909.39</u>

CONSTRUCTION:

Branch Brook Park	\$ 20,605.53
Weequahic Park	227.60
Westside Park	333.26
Grover Cleveland Park	11,189.85
Yanticaw Park	815.31
Vailsburg Park	109.24
Belleville Park	14,023.08
	<u>\$ 47,303.87</u>

ITEMS.

Grading .....	.....
Paving and Sewerage	\$ 827.81
Trees and Plants	1,183.47
Labor	26,071.73
Tools and Implements	117.80
Buildings and Bridges	19,098.81
Fences and Fountains	4.25
	<u>\$ 47,303.87</u>

OFFICE:

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,072.84
Architects and Engineers	18,071.44
	<u>\$ 19,144.28</u>
Cash on hand December 31st, 1917	332,033.49
	<u>\$ 655,391.03</u>

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE. 1917.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1st, 1917.....	\$	82.99
Received from Essex County.....	\$323,144.93	
Rents	8,187.51	
Interest	3,128.65	
Miscellaneous	5,917.65	
	<u>\$</u>	<u>340,378.74</u>

DISBURSEMENTS. \$ 340,461.73

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Branch Brook Park	\$101,734.69	
Weequahic Park	58,858.80	
Eastside Park	9,670.03	
Westside Park	13,413.67	
Orange Park	11,797.29	
Watsessing Park	18,630.47	
Anderson Park	3,606.00	
Riverbank Park	4,616.66	
Irvington Park	8,839.47	
Glenfield Park	8,495.36	
Grover Cleveland Park	815.15	
Yanticaw Park	6,187.13	
Vailsburg Park	10.68	
Eagle Rock Reservation	8,013.21	
South Mountain Reservation	28,993.53	
East Orange Parkway	5,989.17	
Park Avenue	24,034.64	
Prospect Avenue	3,210.97	
	<u>\$</u>	<u>316,916.92</u>

ITEMS.

Wages—Policemen	\$ 49,347.15
Wages—Labor	168,963.34
Tools and Supplies	98,606.43

\$316,916.92

OFFICE:

Petty Cash	\$ 50.00	
Traveling	331.90	
Stationery and Printing	2,713.84	
Office Supplies	1,525.15	
Salaries	15,774.19	
Rents and Telephones	3,010.10	
	<u> </u>	\$ 23,405.18

	<u>\$</u>	<u>340,322.10</u>
Cash on hand December 31st, 1917.....		139.63

\$ 340,461.73

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

December 31, 1917.

This is to certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for 1917, and I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).

STATISTICS

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON 1917.

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 1st. During the school session, the playgrounds were open from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M., and from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation, the playgrounds were open from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

	No. of Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
MONTH OF JULY.						
Branch Brook Park	26	37,849	15,080	5,266	21,484	3,265
Eastside Park	26	28,400	14,656	3,171	18,500	1,534
Westside Park	26	38,677	16,275	2,968	19,321	1,052
Orange Park	26	33,452	16,111	4,335	14,228	791
Watsessing Park	26	16,323	7,604	3,897	3,862	....
" Bloomfield Addition	26	19,481	9,772	3,608	5,807	....
Riverbank Park	26	25,025	10,646	1,253	9,682	731
Irvington Park	26	10,626	5,387	984	6,363	997
Glenfield Park	26	19,701	8,430	1,582	11,475	1,244
Weequahic Park	26	6,346	2,855	....	....	....

MONTH OF AUGUST.						
Branch Brook Park	27	38,433	14,376	5,887	22,037	2,156
Eastside Park	27	29,276	13,767	3,702	19,112	1,313
Westside Park	27	37,841	15,334	3,112	18,406	1,212
Orange Park	27	34,542	14,281	4,800	15,270	686
Watsessing Park	27	15,232	5,406	3,151	3,976	....
" Bloomfield Addition	27	20,030	8,109	3,376	4,670	....
Riverbank Park	27	26,457	9,325	991	8,826	524
Irvington Park	27	9,048	4,500	865	5,633	676
Glenfield Park	27	19,898	7,621	1,428	10,475	1,031
Weequahic Park	27	5,185	3,452	582	....	....
Yanticaw Park	27	2,050	3,850	420	....	....

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SKATING, WINTER OF 1916-1917.

Number of Skaters.

Date	Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Waseoning Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Wesquable Park	Irrington Park
1916						
Dec. 19	.....	125	.....	.....	.....	100
" 20	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	350
" 23	.....	650	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 24	.....	1,400	.....	50	.....	500
" 25	.....	1,950	.....	100	.....	500
" 26	.....	2,700	1,500	125	.....	1,250
" 29	.....	1,600	1,500	400	.....	1,300
" 30	5,000	2,500	1,200	450	4,500	1,600
" 31	15,000	4,500	1,500	700	14,000	2,000
1917						
Jan. 1	23,000	5,000	2,500	1,500	25,000	3,100
" 2	6,000	1,500	500	300	4,500	650
" 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
" 7	.....	.....	.....	175	.....	300
" 8	.....	.....	.....	300	.....	.....
" 11	.....	500	700	300	.....	350
" 12	5,000	2,500	1,000	250	5,000	350
" 13	5,000	2,075	1,500	400	6,000	1,400
" 15	.....	500	.....	250	2,000	350
" 16	10,000	2,600	1,500	700	9,000	1,800
" 17	8,000	2,600	1,500	800	10,000	2,000
" 18	10,000	3,500	1,300	750	9,000	1,700
" 19	9,000	3,000	1,400	600	12,000	1,800
" 20	11,000	4,000	1,800	1,300	14,000	2,800
" 21	3,000	3,000	1,000	350	4,000	960
" 23	6,000	1,200	.....	.....	7,000	1,500
" 24	5,000	1,600	700	350	6,000	1,600
" 25	1,300	1,700	500	350	2,000	1,500
" 26	6,000	3,500	1,500	250	7,000	600
" 27	11,000	2,250	750	500	12,000	1,550
" 28	7,000	1,600	500	1,100	8,000	300
1917						
Feb. 2	500	300	300	250	500	125
" 3	500	300	500	200	500	70
" 4	9,000	2,400	1,200	500	10,000	550
" 6	4,000	2,100	1,000	450	3,000	1,500
" 7	5,000	2,500	900	550	6,000	1,050
" 8	500	375	75	25	200	40

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SKATING, WINTER OF 1916-1917.

Number of Skaters.

Date	Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Watessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Weequahic Park	Irvington Park
" 10	4,000	3,000	1,000	300	4,000	390
" 11	12,000	4,000	1,200	800	15,000	825
" 12	5,000	3,000	1,300	950	6,000	475
" 13	3,500	1,800	500	275	4,000	550
" 14	3,500	2,400	500	150	4,000	700
" 15	1,300	1,000	650	225	1,300	445
" 16	2,000	1,400	450	275	2,500	400
" 17	2,500	1,200	500	175	2,300	250
*" 18	100	150	50	25	100	20
" 19	500	1,200	350	75	500	100
" 21	500	400	350	75	600	150
" 22	500	.....	.....	.....	600	.....
*" 23	50	.....	.....	.....	50	.....
" 25	v100	.....	.....	.....	1,000	.....
Total	201,350	86,075	35,175	17,650	223,150	40,350
50 days	38 days	44 days	37 days	42 days	39 days	45 days

AVERAGE NUMBER OF SKATERS, DAILY.

5,298 1,956 951 420 5,722 897

* From 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

v " 11:00 A.M. " 3:00 P.M.

SUMMARY.

Branch Brook Park.....	201,350
Westside Park.....	86,075
Watessing Park.....	35,175
Grover Cleveland Park.....	17,650
Weequahic Park.....	223,150
Irvington Park.....	40,350
	603,750
Daily average.....	12,075

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS.

	Baseball.		Football.	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park				
Middle Division.....	2,502	27,055	2,765	8,550
Northern Division.....	1,440	9,000	733	3,025
Watsessing Park.....	216	1,750	88	3,505
Irvington Park.....	288	975	675	2,300
Weequahic Park.....	1,708	18,400	1,914	2,050
	<u>6,154</u>	<u>57,180</u>	<u>6,175</u>	<u>19,430</u>

	Tennis.	Croquet.
Branch Brook Park.....	5,762	....
Eastside Park.....	466	71
Westside Park.....	5,293	....
Orange Park.....	487	....
Watsessing Park.....	16	....
Anderson Park.....	236	....
Irvington Park.....	569	....
Weequahic Park.....	8,176	....
	<u>21,005</u>	<u>71</u>

	Roque.	Cricket.
Branch Brook Park.....	3,000	286
Westside Park.....	8	....
	<u>3,008</u>	<u>286</u>

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park.....	8,508
Westside Park.....	5,604
Watsessing Park.....	1,637
Eastside Park.....	214
Irvington Park.....	346
Glenfield Park.....	853
Weequahic Park.....	1,898
Riverbank Park.....	165
	<u>19,225</u>

GOLF

Weequahic Park.....	23,663
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PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

WADING POOLS.

(Opened July 1 to Sept. 1.)

Branch Brook Park.....	68,850
Westside Park.....	39,745
Orange Park.....	20,621
Riverbank Park.....	14,215
Glenfield Park.....	3,215
Watsessing Park (Bloomfield Addition).....	3,245
†Yanticaw	690
Weequahic Park.....	4,744
Irvington	8,755
	164,080

† Opened August 15 to Sept. 1.

Games played and number of players in Essex County Park System.

	Players	Attendance at Games
Base Ball	6,154	57,180
Foot Ball	6,175	19,430
Tennis	21,005	.....
Croquet	71	.....
Roque	3,008	.....
Cricket	286	.....
Athletic Fields	19,225	.....
Golf	23,663	.....
	79,587	76,610

NOV 19 1918

not done
12/1/18
R.H.

93

REPORT

OF THE

PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1918

1/1/19

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twenty-third Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT

APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1918

The W. H. Shurts Co. Printers, 280-284 Plane St., Newark, N. J.



COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS.

JOHN R. HARDIN.....	Term Expires	1919
FRANKLIN MURPHY	"	" 1920
P. SANFORD ROSS.....	"	" 1921
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	"	" 1922
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	"	" 1923

PRESIDENT.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.

TREASURER.

JOHN R. HARDIN.

SECRETARY AND COUNSEL.

ALONZO CHURCH.

ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

A. M. REYNOLDS.

REPORT.

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
January 1, 1919.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-third annual report.

Following out its policy, as outlined in its last annual report, the Board has refrained from any construction work, owing to conditions arising on account of the world war. It was thought unwise to divert to park uses labor and material which might be needed for purposes more directly connected with governmental needs. The land desired for the new parks was, however, purchased or condemned as rapidly as possible, and the acquirement is complete in all the more recent undertakings with the exception of a few parcels in Vailsburg Park. The result of this inaction is that four of the latest additions to the park system are still incomplete, namely, Grover Cleveland Park in Caldwell, Belleville Park, Vailsburg Park, and the addition to Westside Park. It is to be regretted that this is so, as all, with the exception of Grover Cleveland, are parks located to meet the requirements of congested communities where playground facilities and game-fields for the children are now lacking and are greatly needed.

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Another result is that the funds on hand to finish these uncompleted works are insufficient. The appropriations were obtained several years ago when materials and wages were much lower than at present, and therefore should present prices continue more money will be required to finish the work. This money will have to be authorized by legislative enactment, when conditions seem to warrant such action.

In connection with the Vailsburg Park improvement, the Park Commission considered that if it could secure the care, custody and control of the Speedway, it would make a desirable addition to park development in that locality. The Speedway is contiguous to Vailsburg Park and only a few small parcels of land would have to be purchased to connect them. The Speedway is unused and is now in a most unattractive condition. Obviously, this Board not having enough money to complete the park itself, would not have enough to improve the Speedway also. The Commission has requested the Board of Chosen Freeholders to turn over the Speedway to this Board with a reasonable amount of money to put it in good condition. The Freeholders have not yet replied to this request.

In the department of maintenance, the Commission is confronted with the same financial difficulties as have confronted it in the construction department. The Board derives its maintenance funds from the Board of Chosen Freeholders by virtue of an act of the Legislature passed in 1902 and adopted by the people of the county at a

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

referendum election held in that year. It provides that the freeholders each year shall raise by taxation one-half of a mill on each dollar of the ratables and turn the money over to this Board for expenditure. The Freeholders, in their discretion, may increase this sum to three-quarters of a mill, and with the consent of the Park Commission may reduce the appropriation to a sum below the one-half mill that the Commission may declare by resolution to be sufficient for its needs. For several years after the passage of this act, this Board was able to maintain the parks with less than the one-half mill it was entitled to by law. This continued for nine years and a total of \$287,000 which might have been demanded was not asked for and thus saved to the county. The Commission has never asked the county for the three-quarters of a mill, but the very considerable additions to the park system made the maintenance a more and more difficult problem, and added to this now are the war prices of materials and labor. The county park system cannot be permitted to deteriorate. The people have invested upwards of \$7,000,000 in it and its value, as an actual tax producer and a means of enjoyment to many thousands, would be seriously impaired were it not kept up to the same high standard at which it has been heretofore maintained. The time is not far distant when this Board will be compelled to request the Freeholders to add to the one-half mill annually raised by virtue of its power to increase park maintenance to the three-quarter mill limit.

There is another maintenance problem to which the

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Board has given careful attention and which must be solved as soon as conditions warrant. That is the reconstruction of the roads in the older parks, as, for example, Branch Brook and Orange. They were built before the days of the automobile and the foundations are not heavy enough to stand the strain of the tremendous vehicular traffic that constantly passes over them. This improvement is very much needed, but would cost several hundred thousand dollars. It is impossible to save enough for it out of the annual maintenance. There are two ways by which the improvement could be made: First, a direct issue of bonds for the full amount desired. Second, by taking advantage of a statute which permits the Freeholders, in their discretion, to place in the tax levy in any year an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for park construction. The Board would prefer the latter way, as it would avoid a bond issue, distribute the improvement over a series of years, and decrease the burden to the taxpayer.

There should also be constructed at South Mountain Reservation good automobile roads along the crests of the first and second mountains and through the woods by the little stream that runs through the valley. This reservation contains over 2,000 acres and is one of the most beautiful parts of the park system. There are now dirt roads running through it in many directions, but they are unsafe for automobile traffic, and thus those who use this almost universal mode of locomotion are deprived of the enjoyment of some of the most beautiful portions of the reservation. The Board intends to widen

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

in the near future the road from South Orange Avenue to Washington Rock, so that automobiles can use it at least during dry weather. This, however, is only a temporary expedient until a substantial permanent roadway can be constructed.

In spite of the financial problems which have confronted it, the Board has been able to maintain the parks in a reasonably satisfactory manner and their use by the people increases steadily from year to year. The popularity of golf at Weequahic Park is shown by larger attendance each year, and it will soon be necessary to enlarge the golf house. The charge for a season permit has been increased to residents outside the county to \$5. For residents the fee of \$1 remains as in former years, and there is a charge of \$2.50 per season for lockers. The game fields, athletic fields and playgrounds are each year more largely patronized, and the athletic track at Weequahic Park is said to be one of the finest in this vicinity.

The Board has sought for several years to increase the use of the playgrounds by securing legislation to permit it to open them on Sundays, under proper restrictions. The Commission can see no harm in permitting children to engage in healthy exercise under proper supervision on any day in the week, and as no admission fees can be or are exacted, the charge cannot truthfully be made that the Sabbath is commercialized. The Legislature has hitherto withheld its consent and therefore this Board is still bound by the provisions of a law passed in 1792 and which almost everywhere is openly violated.

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

The reservations are as popular as the parks, in spite of the fact that they are not as accessible. Picnic parties and individual visitors are there in crowds. At South Mountain the trout fishing, inaugurated a few years ago, is enjoyed by many a sportsman, 1,326 licenses being issued last season. The efforts of the Board to reintroduce at South Mountain the rarer trees which the fire and wood chopper had eliminated are beginning to show decided results. The plantations of pines, set out about five years ago, are from seven to eight feet in height and will in a few years have to be thinned. They were originally seedlings of a few inches, developed in the nurseries and set out when they reached the required size.

The report of the Treasurer and the table of playground statistics are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN MURPHY,
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1918**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION, 1918.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1, 1918.....	\$332,033.49
Received from Essex County.....	\$38,000.00
Interest	5,296.21
	<u>\$ 43,296.21</u>
	\$375,329.70

DISBURSEMENTS.

LAND:

Vailsburg Park	\$ 33,735.00
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PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Westside Park	\$ 69.33
Grover Cleveland Park.....	242.26
Yanticaw Park	10.80
Vailsburg Park	883.41
Belleville Park	2,705.15
	<u>\$ 3,910.95</u>

ITEMS.

Grading	
Paving and Sewerage.....	\$ 95.14
Trees and Plants.....	621.45
Labor	2,674.92
Tools and Implements.....	100.15
Gardening	
Buildings and Bridges.....	42.02
Fences and Fountains.....	377.27
	<u>\$ 3,910.95</u>

OFFICE:

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,836.61
Architects and Engineers.....	12,788.72
	<u>\$ 14,625.33</u>
Liberty Bonds, Fourth Issue.....	100,000.00
Cash on hand December 31, 1918.....	223,058.42
	<u>\$375,329.70</u>

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE, 1918.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand January 1, 1918.....	\$	139.63
Received from Essex County.....	\$326,870.64	
Rents	8,516.88	
Interest	3,863.33	
Miscellaneous	3,158.09	
	<u>\$342,408.94</u>	
		<u>\$342,548.57</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS :

Branch Brook Park.....	\$101,652.54
Weequahic Park	60,893.25
Eastside Park	9,729.04
Westside Park	15,069.96
Orange Park	13,189.23
Watsessing Park	16,344.99
Anderson Park	3,709.12
Riverbank Park	5,148.88
Irvington Park	7,985.42
Glenfield Park	9,199.05
Grover Cleveland Park.....	1,247.17
Yanticaw Park	6,710.25
Vailsburg Park	251.11
Belleville Park	3,150.36
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	10,258.96
South Mountain Reservation.....	32,849.21
East Orange Parkway.....	7,004.08
Park Avenue	13,652.98
Prospect Avenue	2,862.13
	<u>\$320,907.73</u>

ITEMS.

Wages—Police	\$ 51,125.34
Wages—Labor	161,205.68
Tools and Supplies.....	108,576.71

\$320,907.73

OFFICE :

Petty Cash	
Traveling	
Stationery and Printing.....	\$ 2,936.95
Office Supplies	116.45
Salaries	15,075.33
Rents and Telephones.....	3,260.20
	<u>\$ 21,388.93</u>
Cash on hand December 31, 1918.....	251.91

\$342,548.57

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

December 31, 1918.

**This is to certify that I have examined the books of the
Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for
1918, and I find all items correctly stated.**

**S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).**

STATISTICS

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON 1918.

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 1st. During the school session, the playgrounds were open from 3 to 6 P. M., and from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation, the playgrounds were open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

	Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
JULY						
Branch Brook Park.....	27	30,984	10,308	6,266	17,844	2,562
Eastside Park	27	20,040	11,565	4,711	14,058	1,000
Westside Park	27	29,700	12,720	3,875	15,300	989
Orange Park	27	25,542	12,303	5,400	11,834	405
Watsessing Park	27	10,234	5,087	3,798	2,628	.....
" Bloomfield Addn.	27	13,166	7,277	4,806	4,708	.....
Riverbank Park	27	18,250	8,464	1,000	8,607	.....
Irvington Park	27	8,266	4,321	1,465	5,271	760
Glenfield Park	27	13,207	6,043	1,827	8,243	842
Weequahic Park	27	4,634	2,066	1,008	.....	.....
Yanticaw Park	27	3,942	4,274	1,439	.....	.....
AUGUST						
Branch Brook Park.....	27	32,100	10,776	6,872	18,214	2,726
Eastside Park	27	21,865	12,000	5,177	14,567	989
Westside Park	27	30,346	12,959	4,206	16,102	677
Orange Park	27	26,887	12,864	5,697	12,340	509
Watsessing Park	27	10,994	5,921	4,025	3,485	.....
" Bloomfield Addn.	27	14,251	7,878	5,364	5,126	.....
Riverbank Park	27	19,347	9,056	1,171	9,123	.....
Irvington Park	27	8,878	4,565	1,656	5,870	635
Glenfield Park	27	13,799	6,234	2,072	8,556	724
Weequahic Park	27	4,925	2,300	1,518	.....	.....
Yanticaw Park	27	4,454	4,877	1,893	.....	.....

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SKATING, WINTER OF 1917-1918.

Number of Skaters.

	Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Watnessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Wesquehac Park	Irvington Park
1917						
Dec. 8	-----	-----	100	-----	-----	-----
9	-----	100	500	75	-----	100
10	-----	275	350	50	-----	150
11	-----	700	400	150	-----	600
12	1,000	900	600	300	1,500	700
13	500	400	350	100	1,000	400
24	-----	-----	40	-----	-----	15
26	400	-----	350	-----	-----	850
27	4,000	2,000	400	75	4,500	850
28	800	250	500	125	900	175
29	300	125	100	200	300	100
30	600	350	350	150	500	165
31	500	275	550	250	500	210
1918						
Jan. 1	6,100	1,200	1,400	500	7,000	900
2	900	700	675	350	800	300
3	900	775	450	300	800	140
4	2,000	550	500	450	2,000	300
5	3,000	2,100	900	700	3,500	450
6	10,000	4,000	1,350	700	10,000	1,025
9	3,000	1,000	750	450	3,500	225
10	1,500	1,200	600	450	1,500	450
11	1,000	1,100	450	375	1,500	250
13	4,000	350	150	400	4,500	75
14	5,000	650	700	350	5,000	400
15	3,500	1,150	400	125	4,000	150
16	3,000	1,100	650	150	3,000	500
17	3,200	900	450	50	3,500	450
18	3,000	1,000	400	100	3,000	250
19	4,000	900	650	125	4,500	150
20	10,000	1,650	1,525	250	10,000	700
21	12,500	2,500	1,600	300	14,000	900
23	2,500	1,100	550	40	2,500	300
24	3,000	1,100	750	-----	3,500	300
25	1,600	450	300	125	1,500	250
26	1,800	650	150	125	1,800	350
27	1,200	900	25	-----	1,500	25
28	-----	50	-----	-----	100	-----
29	800	650	450	100	900	250
30	2,000	750	450	125	1,900	200
31	1,800	1,250	600	75	1,200	150

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SKATING, WINTER OF 1917-1918.

Number of Skaters.

		Branch Brook Park	Westside Park	Watsessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park	Weequahic Park	Irrington Park
Feb.	1	1,500	875	650	175	1,500	150
	2	1,200	1,100	750	250	1,500	240
	3	250	100	75	50	250	25
	4	400	195	25	100	500	100
	5	100	50	50	40	100	75
	6	500	375	500	150	600	125
	9	100	25	40	15	75	25
	10	800	200	50	10	600	50
	11	100	125	75	25	100	10
	12	75	50	50	15	75	10
	18	200	.....	.....	.....	175	.....
	22	250	150	125	25	200	75
	23	200	75	.....	.....	150	75
	24	75	25	.....	.....	50	25

GAME FIELDS.

	FOOTBALL		BASEBALL	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park—				
Middle Division	1,958	4,100	1,967	16,464
Northern Division	88	125	374	702
Watsessing Park	68	2,100	194	980
Irrington Park	66	150	90	325
Weequahic Park	676	800	2,376	8,900
Eastside Park	170*			

* Practice for Eastside High School.

GOLF.

Weequahic Park	22,809
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P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

ATHLETIC FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park.....	6,014
Westside Park	2,656
Watsessing Park	400
Eastside Park	535
Irvington Park	276
Glenfield Park	620
Weequahic Park	1,003
Riverbank Park	97

TENNIS.

Branch Brook Park.....	2,272
Westside Park	2,260
Watsessing Park	96
Eastside Park	219
Irvington Park	348
Weequahic Park	7,791
Anderson Park	117
Orange Park	165

WADING POOLS.

(Open July 1-September 1.)

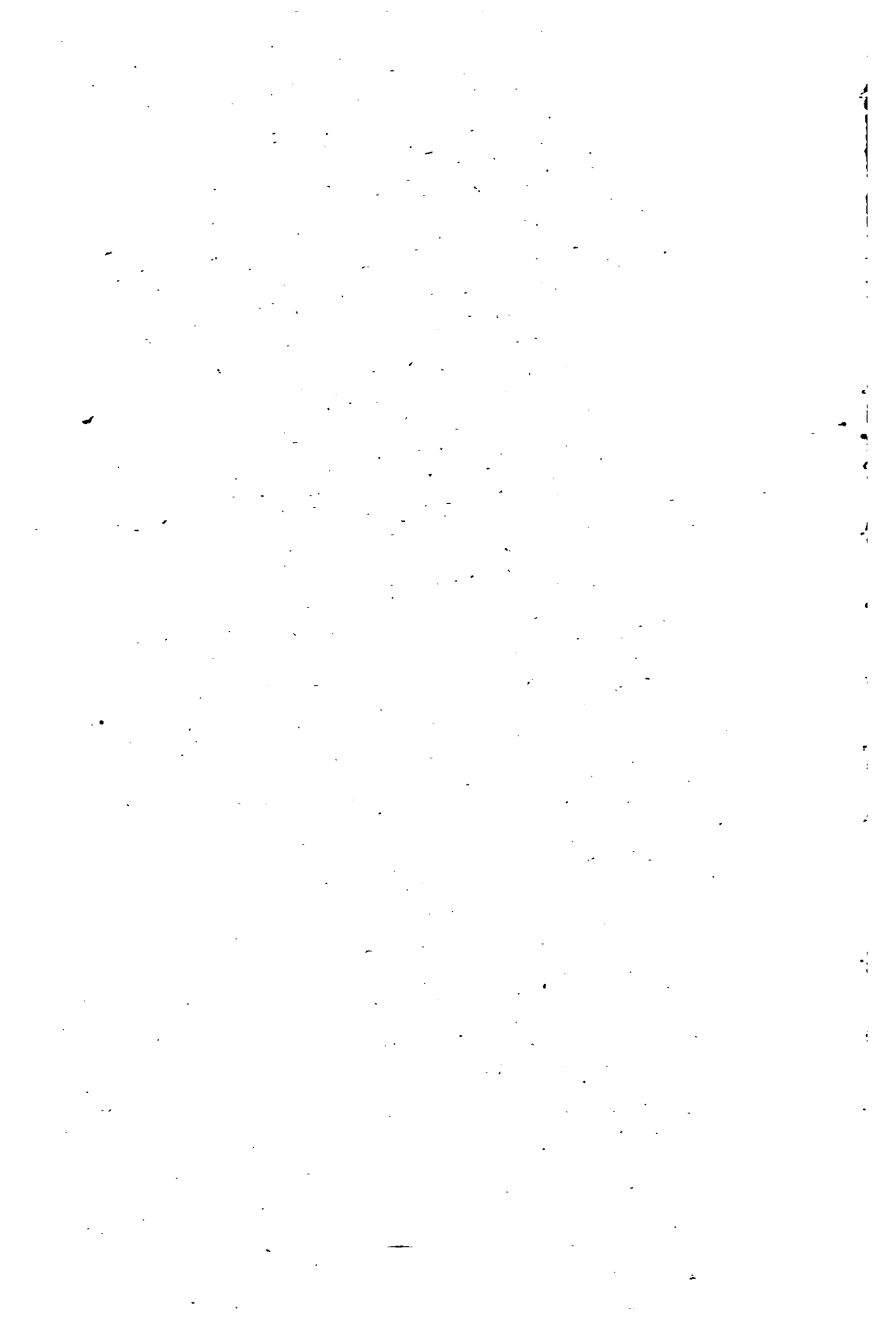
Branch Brook Park.....	97,050
Westside Park	30,485
Orange Park	26,196
Riverbank Park	9,264
Glenfield Park	3,079
Watsessing Park	6,619
Yanticaw Park	4,186
Weequahic Park	5,868
Irvington Park	13,920

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REPORT
OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
OF
ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.
1919

Essex Co. (N.J.)
MSP



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twenty-fourth Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1919

The W. H. Shurts Co., Printers, 280-284 Plane St., Newark, N. J.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

FRANKLIN MURPHY.....	Term Expires	1920
P. SANFORD ROSS.....	“	“ 1921
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	“	“ 1922
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.....	“	“ 1923
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	“	“ 1924

President

FRANKLIN MURPHY

Vice-President

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR

Treasurer

JOHN R. HARDIN

Secretary and Counsel

ALONZO CHURCH

Engineer and Superintendent

A. M. REYNOLDS



FRANKLIN MURPHY

REPORT

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
January 1, 1920.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-fourth annual report :

The Commission has not done any work of construction during the past year. The labor conditions have been such that it was almost impossible to obtain workmen, and the cost of all material so high that the Board deemed it prudent to wait until business conditions became more settled. The Commission, however, decided to proceed under the act of 1914 and request the Board of Chosen Freeholders to issue \$200,000 worth of park bonds for the location of a park in the Borough of Verona. While the Commission had definite ideas about the site of this park, the acquisition of the property was delayed because of the war. The Commission deemed it unwise to incur any additional obligations at such a time, but now that normal conditions are slowly returning the Board feels itself justified in heeding the mandate of the people and at least making a start on this much needed improvement. As soon as the proceeds of the bonds are received, the property in view will be secured, and it is hoped that by the time this is accomplished conditions will be such as to justify its immediate development. This park will form a most attractive addition to the system and will be the seventeenth park under the control of

the Board, increasing the area of useable park property to approximately 3,463.61 acres. Twenty-five years ago when this Board began its labors there were only 25 acres of park land within the limits of the County. The property is a beautiful tract of wood and water directly adjoining Bloomfield Avenue in Verona. The ground has many fine trees and an attractive little stream flows into the lake at its southern end. The lake is about 13 acres in extent and the water supply to maintain it seems ample. It is accessible by the Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, trolley, and is at present used as an amusement park and bathing place. It is crowded in summer with picnic parties and bathers, and in winter furnishes excellent facilities for skating. It is decidedly an appropriate part of a county system, as it is visited by persons from all the surrounding municipalities, as well as by residents of Verona. There has been an urgent and increasing demand for its acquisition, and when completed it will be one of the most attractive of the county parks. Its approximate area is about 55 acres. In its development the aquatic features will be emphasized, but there will be room also for game-fields and other playground facilities. It should be said that while the development of this park calls for a bond issue of \$200,000, this amount will be balanced by the retirement in August, 1920, of \$200,000 of old park bonds which have matured and will be taken care of from a sinking fund established many years ago—so that this park will not in any way increase the burden of the taxpayers.

During the past year the Commission has endeavored to maintain the parks at the usual high standard and to increase their usefulness and attractiveness. It is much

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

to be regretted that there are no funds available to put the driveways in the older parks into first-class condition. This subject was discussed in the last annual report. The Commission hopes to secure funds next year to thoroughly improve the driveways most in need. In their present condition, they are most unsatisfactory to the public and the small amount the Board can spare from its maintenance fund will not put them in a permanently satisfactory condition. They were built before the advent of the automobile and therefore will not stand the strain of the present heavy traffic. It is interesting to note that statistics taken by the Commission show that at a given point in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park, on Saturday afternoons, three cars pass in every five minutes.

In its efforts to make the parks more interesting and perhaps looking ahead into the future, the Commission sent its experts to Boston to see if it would be possible to secure from the Arnold Arboretum some of the Chinese and Japanese Azaleas which had been imported by it. Owing to the courtesy of the managers, the Board was able to secure several thousand seeds of these very rare plants, without charge. They are the *Azalea Zaemferi*, *Azalea Calendulaceum*, *Azalea Ghent*. They are giants of their kind, growing to a height of five to seven feet, with an abundance of rich foliage, and in June of each year are prolific in blossoms—one species a brilliant yellow, another a flame red. The blossoms appear in great masses and where the plants are plentifully grouped there are most effective results. It will require several years to develop these plants so that they may be set out throughout the park system. The seeds must first be developed

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

in the park greenhouses in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park. When they are sufficiently matured, they will be transplanted, and the commission expects to place a large number of them in proximity to the ever-green plantations at South Mountain Reservation. The plants have already made very satisfactory headway, and the Board considers itself most fortunate in obtaining them, especially as the federal government has put an embargo upon plant importations because of the danger of bringing plant disease into the country, and the only way the Commission could secure these plants was from the Arnold Arboretum.

The rhododendron and the laurel that the Commission has planted and protected at South Mountain Reservation is making satisfactory progress and the beautiful blossoms are wonderfully attractive in the early summer. Several years ago Mr. William S. Hunt, after a careful study of this Reservation, made a report as to the birds and flowers to be found there. The Board believes the public would be interested in Mr. Hunt's report and hopes in the near future to be able to publish it in such form that it may be used as a handbook by those visiting the Reservation. The birds at Branch Brook Park have been greatly helped during cold and snowy weather through the efforts of the Newark Bird Club. Under its direction, Boy Scouts prepared feeding places at various points and placed seed therein, so that the feathered inhabitants who had not gone south should not feel too severely the pinch of winter. The Club has also donated bird houses which have been placed among the trees.

The golf course at Weequahic Park continues to be a great attraction and it is interesting to note that it costs

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

less to maintain it as a golf course than it would were the same area laid out as lawn. The entire cost of operation is \$5,734.15. The receipts from 230 lockers, permits, towels and score cards is \$2,526.02, making the actual cost of upkeep \$3,208.13. The cost of maintaining lawn areas at Weequahic Park is at the rate of \$70.00 an acre, therefore were the 59.17 acres covered by the course used for lawn only, the cost would be \$4,141.90. The number of players increases each year. During the past year 27,940 golfers took advantage of the opportunity to play the game.

In 1910 the Legislature authorized the establishment by this Board of a Park Police Pension Fund. The matter was carefully studied by expert actuaries, who gave their services without charge, and the law was drawn in accordance with their suggestions. It provides for a pension of one-half the pensioner's wages on retirement, after twenty years' service and reaching the age of sixty years; also for pension of the same amount for permanent disability incurred in the discharge of duty, and in case of death in the discharge of duty, a similar pension for the widow and minor children. The actuaries decided that 8% of the men's wages would be needed to properly finance the project, and accordingly the bill provides that the men shall contribute 3% of their wages, and the Park Commission a sum equal to 5%. The men, however, have voluntarily contributed more than the amount required of them by donations received through the Essex County Park Police Benevolent Association. James F. Little, assistant actuary of the Prudential Insurance Company, made a careful study of the fund at the request of the Board, and without charge. He states that the fund is

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

financially sound and that after taking into account all demands that can be made upon it with reasonable probability, there is a surplus of over \$10,000. Although this pension system has been in operation ten years, there are as yet no pensioners. A statement of the present condition of this fund is appended hereto with the other financial tables.

After the close of the year which this report covers, but before its completion, the President of the Board, former Governor Franklin Murphy, died. His loss is a most severe one to this Board, and is keenly felt in a personal way by his associates and also by the employees of the Commission. He was connected with the work from its beginning in 1895, for even during his term as Governor of New Jersey, when his duties to the State compelled him to retire from the Commission, his interest never flagged and his influence was invaluable in assisting the passage of legislation highly necessary to the permanent success of the park system. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Commission held on March 9th, 1920:

"Franklin Murphy, President of the Essex County Park Commission, departed this life while sojourning at Palm Beach, Florida, on February 24, 1920. For a score of years in all he was a member of this body, having been appointed in 1895 as one of the first permanent Commissioners. He was the Commission's first Treasurer from 1895 to 1897. In 1901, on his election as Governor of New Jersey, he resigned, but returned to the Commission in 1906. He was its Vice-President from 1906 to 1911 and President from 1911 until his death.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

"Our late President's association with this Commission thus originated at the very initiation of the county park system and covered its history from the first planning, through the period of construction, to completed development. The original members of the Commission and their immediate successors exhibited, in the location and extent of the parks and reservations, a foresight rare in municipal activities. Franklin Murphy was a forceful leader among these men, with vision to see and courage to do, and no man has been more influential in the result achieved. A lover of nature and a friend of humanity, he enthusiastically supported the Commission's plans for establishing, in the heart of a growing city, vacant spaces rescued from the crowding habitations, and for preserving, within the borders of the County, wide expanses of field and forest, which should bring opportunity for health, rest and enjoyment to the men, women and children of a great industrial population through all the years to come. He gave the work unstintingly of his time and brought to it trained business judgment and wide practical experience. His service in the early days of plan and construction was intensive and untiring, and in later years he has been the sympathetic administrator, diligent to protect and preserve the established system of parks and reservations, anxious to promote and extend their comfortable use and enjoyment by the people for whose benefit they were designed. Governor Murphy will be missed in many relationships, but nowhere more than in the administration of the Essex County Park Commission.

"His associates on the Commission are deeply sensible of their personal loss. His death is the first break in

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

their membership in nine years. Unity of purpose and harmony of action during this long service have characterized their relations and bound them with close ties to their departed President. They will miss his tactful chairmanship, his cheerful optimism, his civic zeal, his experienced advice and his power of decision, but above all they will miss, not merely in the Commission, but out of it as well, the friend they have grown to know and love.

"It is appropriate that the Commission should record in permanent form its estimation of the service of Franklin Murphy as Commissioner and President, and its appreciation of him as associate and friend. Therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this minute be entered upon the records of the Essex County Park Commission. Be it further

"Resolved, That a copy thereof, suitably engrossed and signed by the surviving Commissioners and the Secretary of the Commission, be sent to the family of our late President and associate."

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1919**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION, 1919

RECEIPTS

Liberty Bonds on hand January 1, 1919....	\$100,000.00
Cash on hand January 1, 1919.....	223,058.42
Received from Interest.....\$	7,318.88
Received from Miscellaneous.....	3,211.90
	<u>10,530.78</u>
	\$333,589.20

DISBURSEMENTS

LAND:

Vailsburg Park	\$ 55,968.28
----------------------	--------------

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Westside Park	\$ 568.94
Grover Cleveland Park.....	1,018.67
Vailsburg Park	2,729.15
Belleville Park	4,183.42
	<u>8,500.18</u>

ITEMS

Grading	
Paving and Sewerage.....\$	142.50
Trees and Plants.....	443.90
Labor	7,893.03
Tools and Implements.....	20.75
Gardening	
Buildings and Bridges.....	
Fences and Fountains.....	
	<u>\$ 8,500.18</u>

OFFICE:

Legal Expenses	\$ 3,307.49
Architects and Engineers.....	15,920.14
	<u>19,227.63</u>
Liberty Bonds on hand December 31, 1919	100,000.00
Cash on hand December 31, 1919.....	149,893.11
	<u>\$333,589.20</u>

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

MAINTENANCE, 1919

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1919.....		\$ 251.91
Received from Essex County.....	\$343,180.00	
Rents	9,002.33	
Interest	1,187.00	
Miscellaneous	11,452.40	
	<u>364,821.73</u>	

\$365,073.64

DISBURSEMENTS

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Branch Brook Park.....	\$107,135.78	
Weequahic Park	64,226.26	
Eastside Park	10,368.79	
Westside Park	15,440.64	
Orange Park	12,799.83	
Watsessing Park	16,641.25	
Anderson Park	3,837.59	
Riverbank Park	5,402.07	
Irvington Park	9,218.02	
Glenfield Park	8,982.72	
Grover Cleveland Park.....	823.14	
Yanticaw Park	6,769.68	
Vailsburg Park	1,029.82	
Belleville Park	2,115.45	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	11,518.11	
South Mountain Reservation.....	40,319.15	
East Orange Parkway.....	6,946.99	
Park Avenue	15,813.87	
Prospect Avenue	3,112.30	
	<u>342,501.46</u>	

342,501.46

ITEMS

Wages, Police	\$ 58,569.60
Wages, Labor	199,149.17
Tools and Supplies.....	84,782.69

\$342,501.46

OFFICE:

Petty Cash		
Traveling	\$ 413.48	
Stationery and Printing.....	1,992.44	
Office Supplies	515.11	
Salaries	15,569.50	
Rents and Telephones.....	3,559.74	
	<u>22,050.27</u>	

22,050.27

Cash on hand December 31, 1919.....	521.91	
	<u>\$365,073.64</u>	

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

STATEMENT OF PARK POLICE PENSION FUND

December 31, 1919

Cash	\$ 1,822.33
Bond and Mortgage.....	42,000.00
Liberty Bonds	3,000.00
	\$46,822.33

Contributions	\$ 3,760.02
Assessments	12,733.52
Fines	309.50
Excess Wages	622.68
Essex County Park Commission.....	19,123.28
Interest	10,179.76
Interest—Liberty Bonds	93.57
	\$46,822.33

December 31, 1919.

This is to certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for 1919, and I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).

STATISTICS

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SEASON 1919.

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 1st. During the school session, the playgrounds were open from 3 to 6 P. M., and from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation, the playgrounds were open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

	Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
JULY						
Branch Brook Park.....	27	31,900	9,430	6,000	16,484	2,466
Eastside Park	27	21,412	11,343	4,851	14,787	989
Westside Park	27	28,546	12,121	3,734	14,965	1,412
Orange Park	27	24,967	11,436	5,643	11,367	502
Watsessing Park	27	9,976	5,164	3,666	2,445	-----
Bloomfield Add.	27	12,575	7,341	4,125	4,665	-----
Riverbank Park	27	17,649	8,200	977	8,124	-----
Irrington Park	27	8,141	4,122	1,261	5,432	659
Glenfield Park	27	12,100	5,532	1,760	8,045	762
Weequahic Park	27	3,233	1,967	1,241	-----	-----
Yanticaw Park	27	4,124	3,760	1,393	-----	-----
AUGUST						
Branch Brook Park.....	26	32,631	9,660	6,161	16,548	2,161
Eastside Park	26	21,998	11,000	4,915	15,087	1,047
Westside Park	26	30,664	12,987	3,843	15,176	1,521
Orange Park	26	26,989	12,563	5,834	11,579	620
Watsessing Park	26	11,043	5,736	3,969	2,664	-----
Bloomfield Add.	26	13,099	7,814	4,652	4,856	-----
Riverbank Park	26	17,964	8,167	878	8,042	-----
Irrington Park	26	7,981	3,212	1,100	5,234	726
Glenfield Park	26	12,609	5,434	1,646	7,540	800
Weequahic Park	26	2,987	1,806	1,394	-----	-----
Yanticaw Park	26	4,214	3,697	1,427	-----	-----

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

SKATING, WINTER OF 1918-1919. Number of Skaters.

	Branch Brook Park	Weequahic Park	Westside Park	Irvington Park	Watsessing Park	Grover Cleveland Park
1919						
Jan. 7					1,000	150
9			850	200	800	200
10			1,300	500	800	250
11			1,200	1,600	1,400	250
12			2,125	1,400	2,000	400
13	7,000	6,000	2,000	1,300	2,500	600
15			350	200	600	300
16			500	700	800	500
20						450
25						150
26						250
29						375
30						400
Feb. 1						650
2						800
3						250
6						500
7						600
8						250
9						700
10						475
11						650
12						1,000
16						400
17						450
19						500
20						550

GAME FIELDS.

	FOOTBALL		BASEBALL	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park—				
Middle Division	2,426	5,454	2,867	15,520
Northern Division	125	387	540	1,286
Watsessing	96	2,800	150	1,540
Irvington	284	599	112	580
Weequahic	842	1,220	2,188	7,642
Eastside	200*	.....	.....	.....
Glenfield	90*	.....	22†	1,100†

* Practice—Schools and local club.

† Town Celebration.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

GOLF.

Weequahic Park	27,940
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ATHLETIC FIELDS.

Branch Brook Park.....	6,241
Westside Park	2,464
Watsessing Park	361
Eastside Park	453
Irvington Park	384
Glenfield Park	586
Weequahic Park	1,100
Riverbank Park	80

TENNIS.

Branch Brook Park	2,881
Westside Park	2,042
Watsessing Park	80
Eastside Park	986
Irvington Park	300
Weequahic Park	7,960
Anderson Park	102
Orange Park	124

WADING POOLS.

(Open July 1-August 31.)

Branch Brook Park.....	91,549
Westside Park	28,346
Orange Park	25,500
Riverbank Park	8,064
Glenfield Park	3,000
Watsessing Park	5,440
Yanticaw Park*	3,969
Weequahic Park	4,832
Irvington Park†	10,124

* Not open until July 7.

† Closed Saturday afternoons to permit miniature yacht races.

REPORT

OF THE

 PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1920

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twenty-fifth Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1920

The W. H. Shurts Co., Printers, 280-284 Plane St., Newark, N. J.

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

P. SANFORD ROSS.....	Term Expires	1921
ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	“ “	1922
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER	“ “	1923
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	“ “	1924
EDWARD W. JACKSON.....	“ “	1925

President

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR

Vice-President

P. SANFORD ROSS

Treasurer

JOHN R. HARDIN

Secretary and Counsel

ALONZO CHURCH

Engineer and Superintendent

A. M. REYNOLDS

REPORT.

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

January 21, 1921.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-fifth annual report.

The death of Honorable Franklin Murphy, President of the Board and for over twenty years associated with its work, was noted in the last annual report. This was the first break in the personnel of the Commission in nine years, and of course necessitated the appointment of a new Commissioner and a readjustment of the officers. Mr. Murphy died on February 24, 1920, and his term would have expired on April 17th following. Chief Justice William S. Gummere, who, under the law creating the Commission, is authorized to select its members, decided not to fill the unexpired term, but to wait until April and make an appointment for the full period of five years. He selected as Mr. Murphy's successor Mr. Edward W. Jackson, who was a member of the preliminary board appointed by the late Chief Justice Depue in 1894 and served until the creation of the permanent Commission, and who for several years past has done important service to the county as a member of the Mosquito Extinction Commission. At the annual election in April Mr. Robert S. Sinclair, formerly Vice-President, was chosen to succeed Mr. Murphy as President, and Mr. P. Sanford Ross became Vice-President. John R. Hardin,

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Esq., was re-elected Treasurer, a position he has held since his appointment as Commissioner in 1903.

Before the commencement of the world war the Legislature authorized park bond issues for an addition to West Side Park in Newark, the construction of Vailsburg Park in Newark, and for parks in Belleville, Caldwell and Verona. These issues were approved by the voters on referendum at various elections. These additions were deemed by the Board highly desirable as extensions to the County Park System.

West Side Park is in a very thickly settled section of Newark and the increase in population in this locality rendered the original area of the park inadequate. The addition was a block between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets and Sixteenth and Eighteenth Avenues adjoining the park, and was connected with it by the closing of Fourteenth Street by the authorities of the City of Newark. It is a part of what was known as Magnolia Swamp and the character of the ground is so wet and boggy that it is almost impossible to erect thereon buildings which would stand without putting in foundations more expensive than improvements in that vicinity would warrant. The addition increases the area of West Side Park by 8.3 acres, making its total size 31.34 acres. It is the intention of the Commission to furnish additional playground facilities in this area.

The plans for improvement of the land have been practically agreed upon. They contemplate the moving of the running track and open-air gymnasium from their present location near the corner of Seventeenth Street and Sixteenth Avenue to a location near the corner of Thirteenth Street and Eighteenth Avenue, where there will be more room. The ground now used for running track and open-air gymnasium will be converted into tennis courts, giving twelve additional courts. The plans also provide for an adequate field house, with lockers and showers, east of Fourteenth Street opposite Seventeenth

Avenue. This location may have to be shifted to the Eighteenth Avenue end on account of the difficulty of getting a satisfactory foundation. A baseball field is provided for north of the field house and a concrete wading pool, sand court and shelter near Eighteenth Avenue.

The authorities of Newark have been anxious to have this Commission take over the old reservoir property on Clifton Avenue, adjoining Branch Brook Park, for a swimming pool. This Board has long recognized the fact that there should be throughout the county, and especially in its more congested sections, opportunities of this character. Unfortunately, at Branch Brook and Weequahic Parks the lakes are not adaptable for such purposes. The bottoms are soft and muddy to such a degree that they would be unsafe for bathers. We are informed by the Health Department of the City of Newark that the water is not sufficiently free from impurities to make such use sanitary. To properly construct and maintain swimming pools would involve a large outlay, and the Board cannot afford to divert from its already limited maintenance appropriation moneys for such a purpose to the neglect of the upkeep of the parks with their already varied facilities for athletic activities. In some other communities the swimming and bathing facilities are controlled and operated by a board independent of the Park Commission. The Commission has caused estimates to be made by its engineers as to the cost of improving the reservoir as suggested by the Newark authorities, and their figures show that the cost of filling the reservoir, to make it available for swimming purposes, would be prohibitive. It has an area of 3.8 acres and is 24 feet deep. Moreover, the Water Department of Newark has stated that sufficient water for such a purpose cannot be had from the city supply and the water in the lake at Branch Brook is not pure enough for such a purpose. The Board still feels, however, that if this unused property, which juts into the park and is surrounded by park

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land, could be turned over to it, it could be developed in a way fully as useful as for swimming purposes and at a very much less expense for construction and maintenance. At present it is put to no use whatever.

Vailsburg Park was planned to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population in the northwest section of the City of Newark. It also had the advantage of doing away with an amusement center which was objectionable to many citizens in that neighborhood. The general plan for its improvement comprises: A band stand with concert grove in the fine group of trees near the northeast corner of South Orange Avenue and Devine Street, with a garden to the west near South Orange Avenue. A field house is to be provided at about the center of the park, east and west, and approximately opposite Fifteenth Avenue. The greater part of the area between the field house and the concert grove and garden will be taken up with lawns to be used for baseball and football, and will be so constructed that it can be flooded for skating in winter. This will be about nine acres in extent. South of the field house, near Devine Street, will be the girls' playground and a wading pool opposite this, of about 1.6 acres on the Munn Avenue side. There will be a wading pool with sand courts and a shelter on the south. Separating the girls' playground and the wading pool will be a mall with flower beds. At the extreme south end of the park provision will be made for tennis courts. An administration yard will be located at the southeast corner.

Belleville and Caldwell had no parks within their borders, and there were none in easy reach of the people of these localities. Belleville Park contains 32.70 acres and Caldwell 41.48 acres.

The reasons for the creation of Verona Park are fully set forth in the last annual report of this Board.

The acquirement of the property for all these improvements, save Verona, has been completed. During the war no construction work was attempted, and as the estimates

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in each case were based on pre-war conditions, the Board found itself unable to carry out the mandate of the people. Owing to the greatly increased prices of labor and material, the improvements could not be finished with the money on hand. The Commission, therefore, applied to the last Legislature, which passed an act authorizing the Board of Freeholders of Essex County to issue bonds to the amount of \$500,000 to carry on the work. This appropriation also includes money for the purchase of two additional parcels of land at South Mountain Reservation which will bring the total area of this splendid park up to 2,056.80 acres. The property was needed to carry the reservation to Glen Avenue, a boundary street, and prevent the erection of structures which would appear to the casual observer to be within the reservation itself and thus greatly detract from its sylvan beauty. The Board does not intend to ask for the issue of these bonds as a whole and at once, but only in installments covering a series of years. Four hundred thousand dollars of park bonds have already been retired, paid from a sinking fund established many years ago. During the next six years \$1,700,000 will be paid in the same manner. It is gratifying to note, therefore, that while the people will secure a much larger use of the park system, through the proceeds of these bonds, their issuance will not appreciably increase the burden of the taxpayers for park purposes.

The use of the reservations by the public has increased in a proportion fully equal to the use of the parks. Eagle Rock is a favorite resort for picnic parties and the open space on the crest of the mountain just behind the Rock itself is crowded with pleasure seekers on almost every fair summer day. At South Mountain, also, the roads through the forest are becoming more and more popular. There is a marked increase in the number of pedestrians and equestrians frequenting them, especially those along the east crest. There are 13.5 miles of road through this

forest reserve, about 12.5 miles of which are what are known as wood roads. They wind up and down the mountainside, through the woodland and beside the brook at the bottom of the valley. They follow generally the lines of the old trails which were used by the earlier settlers in carting out timber for their fires when these lands were deemed of no value except to provide their owners with the means of overcoming the winter cold. One of these is of special interest. It starts at South Orange Avenue and runs south through the forest to what is known as Washington Rock. This is at the end of the Watchung Range and from it a magnificent view can be had of the country from Millburn to New Brunswick, and to the east over Essex and Union Counties to Staten Island and New York. In the foreground is the old Church of Springfield, near which a battle was fought in Revolutionary days between the patriots and the red-coats, and where upwards of thirty continentals lost their lives. It is said that at the height of the conflict, when the Americans were beginning to feel the need of paper wadding for their guns, Parson Caldwell went into the church and, gathering up the hymn books which contained the religious music of Isaac Watts, gave them to the soldiers, admonishing them to "Give 'em Watts, boys"—an incident immortalized in the poem of Bret Harte. The State of New Jersey has erected a statue of a continental soldier in the churchyard, and the old church still lovingly guards the graves of those who gave their lives that the United States might be.

Washington Rock is so named because tradition informs us that from this commanding position George Washington, then wintering in Morristown with his exhausted troops, watched the progress of the English army from New Brunswick to New York. The road from South Orange Avenue to this—one of the historic spots of Essex County—is about one and three-fourths miles in length. While it winds through a beautiful stretch of

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woodland in which laurel, azalea and rhododendron abound, there are several beautiful vistas of the valley below before the visitor finally comes to the Rock itself with its commanding outlook.

The Commission hopes gradually to increase the modern roadways through the forest until the whole great reservation of over 2,000 acres is available to all the public.

The Commission has also taken steps to acquire the two parcels of land at South Mountain Reservation mentioned above. One of these tracts, owned by Sarah A. Condit and consisting of 18.75 acres, has been purchased at a cost of \$39,120. The remaining tract of 3.56 acres, controlled by the Millburn Improvement Association, is in process of condemnation, as an agreement as to price could not be reached. This reservation, therefore—the largest county park and one of the most beautiful portions of the system—is now practically complete as to acreage.

During the past year the Board of Freeholders, at the request of this Commission, issued \$200,000 of bonds for the acquirement and improvement of Verona Park, and turned the proceeds over to this Board. The Commission began immediately to acquire the land. The largest single owner, the Verona Park Lake Association, has already transferred its holdings at a price satisfactory to the Commission, to wit, \$58,200. Deeds from several other land owners have been secured, and while condemnation proceedings will undoubtedly be required in some instances, it is hoped that the improvement of the park may be commenced during the coming year.

The Commission regrets to report that during the past summer discovery was made that the gypsy moth has made its appearance in this State. This is one of the most dangerous of the enemies of trees, and, unless eradicated promptly, causes enormous losses by destroying valuable timber, ruining fruit trees and decimating forests.

This pest was introduced from Europe into Massachusetts by a naturalist, Leopold Trouvelot, in 1868. He

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was endeavoring, by cross breeding the moth and the silk worm, to produce a variety of the latter that could live in this climate. Unfortunately, one of the cages in which the gypsy moths were confined was broken and some of the caterpillars escaped. The results were disastrous. By 1889 the insect had increased in such alarming proportions that a State appropriation was made to exterminate it. After ten years, but before the eradication was complete, the State refused further financial assistance. This was a serious mistake, for by 1905 the depredations of the pest had again assumed alarming proportions and they had spread over a territory eight times as great as at the first infestation. The State of Massachusetts was again forced to begin appropriations in order to prevent the utter destruction of the trees.

Massachusetts is now expending \$750,000 annually for the suppression of the pest. The Federal Government makes an annual appropriation of \$300,000 for similar purposes within the New England States. It is estimated that the State of Massachusetts has already expended \$20,000,000 in suppression work. At present it is all the authorities can do to keep it under control.

From Massachusetts this moth has spread until it is now to be found in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Its life history is divided into four stages: Egg, larva, pupa and insect. The eggs are laid in masses of about four hundred, from the middle of July to the middle of August, on trees, fences, stone walls, etc. The larva is hatched about May 1st as a small, black, hairy caterpillar less than one-quarter inch long. It is during this stage that the dispersion happens by being carried on the wind. Egg clusters may be transported on nursery stock, forest and quarry products. The full-grown caterpillar, dark green in color, is from one and one-half to three inches long, and it is during this period that the damage to foliage is done. The pupa is fully grown about the middle of

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July and is a dark reddish brown color. From the middle of July until the middle of August the winged moths emerge from the pupae. The male moth is brownish yellow with dark brown markings. It flies actively by day with a peculiar zig-zag flight. The female moth is sluggish and does not fly, has wings of yellowish white, with numerous black markings, and expands about two inches.

In 1919, judging from old egg masses found in 1920, at Somerville, the area infested was about sixteen square miles. At present the infestation covers not less than 100 square miles. As soon as the presence of this pest came to the attention of this Board steps were taken to co-operate in all possible ways with the State Department of Agriculture for its eradication. The reservations were carefully reviewed to ascertain if the moths were present within the territory controlled by the Commission, but fortunately no evidences of infestation have been found as yet. This Board gladly co-operated with Dr. Thomas J. Headlee, State Entomologist, in the preparation of a bill appropriating \$112,000 for beginning a vigorous campaign for its eradication and bringing the matter to the attention of the Legislature at its session in November. It is gratifying to add that the bill was immediately passed and signed by the Governor and the State authorities have already begun the work of extermination. Further appropriations will, however, be necessary in the future, and if promptly voted and wisely expended, the pest can probably be wiped out in about five years.

The Commission feels that it is its duty to go thus fully into the discussion of this subject, that the public may be informed of the danger which threatens, not only the Park System of Essex County, but the trees and forests of the entire State as well. Every citizen should watch for evidences of the moth or caterpillar, and should he find what, to him, seem to be signs of its appearance, he should at once report to the State Department of Agriculture. In this way the parks and forests of the State

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may be saved, and the tremendous expenditures, due to the inaction of the State of Massachusetts, may be avoided.

The playgrounds throughout the Park System are increasing in popularity each year and more than justifying the cost of their establishment. Their most notable accomplishment during the year was the development of a spirit of helpful service among the children. The ideal community playground is one of the best developers of true Americanism. The Essex County Park playgrounds are attractive children's community centers. They encourage a high quality of activities which encourage loyalty and public spirit among the children. Many factors have contributed to the development of this—the park settings for the playgrounds—the children's buildings—the interest and visits of delegations and officials of other playgrounds—the enthusiasm and ability of the young men and women teachers—and the strict adherence to child world pleasures.

Every year since the opening of the playgrounds, in 1906, noticeable improvement has been made. The games, dances and plays have changed very little. The same games and dances, the same stories are used in new and attractive ways. From the first friendly competition was stressed, the inter-park athletic contest created intense interest and friendly rivalry, the baseball and basketball leagues developed community spirit. The park playground field days attracted public interest and afforded each playground group an opportunity to exhibit its work and to entertain the children of the other county park playgrounds. The athletic contest programs of the field days afforded the young athletes a chance to compete. An athletic championship banner and a baseball championship banner were awarded each year. The prize medals and souvenir medals presented at the field day exercises are today prized by many who have grown out of the realms of childhood.

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Tableau and pageant features were added each year to the field day programs. A playground parade feature aroused intense interest, each group prepared a surprise feature and competed for the applause of the spectators. The dances, drills, games and sewing were all used to demonstrate the special work. The old costumes were revamped and rearranged each year to make pretty and attractive special features. Playground songs, park colors and playground yells were adopted to give evidence and expression to the community spirit and to individualize each group. "The Essex County Park Playground Song," written by one of the teachers, became very popular on the playgrounds.

The field day exercises and the special feature programs developed a strong friendship among the groups. Under the direction of the teachers, picnics to the county playgrounds were held.

The field day exercises gradually gave way to the picnics and parties. The first general playground picnic was held at Eagle Rock Reservation. The next year it was held at South Mountain Reservation. Special cars were chartered to take the children to the reservations. Each group prepared special feature programs. The children spent the day in the reservation and enjoyed the entertainment, songs, games and dances. Ice cream was served after luncheon. The aims and purposes of the Essex County Park Commission were explained to the children and the natural beauty spots of the reservations were pointed out to them. Several petitions to have a picnic each week during the summer were received.

During the war the children were organized into Auxiliary Red Cross Units. The playgrounds became places for useful activities. Large quantities of Red Cross materials were made and sent to the Red Cross organizations. A Loyal League was formed. Five grades were established in the league, promotions to each grade being made upon the successful completion of the

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grade requirements. Badges were given for each grade.

At the request of the children a series of formal parties were held at the playgrounds. Poster invitations were sent and letters and posters of acceptance were received. This year the children of Orange Park entertained the children from Riverbank and West Side Parks on August 20th—the children of Bloomfield section of Watsessing Park entertained the children from Glenfield, East Orange section of Watsessing and Irvington Parks on August 24th—the children of Branch Brook Park entertained the children from East Side, Yanticaw and Weequahic Parks at the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park on August 26th. The children entertained and the guests each prepared programs of songs, recitations, games and dances. The sewing, reed and raffia work was exhibited by each playground group at the parties. The boys played competitive games of baseball. The finest spirit was in evidence at all of the parties, and the songs, greetings and cheers were evidence that they were a great success.

Several of the teachers employed have grown up from the Essex County Park playgrounds. They have contributed in large measure to the splendid spirit and enthusiasm of the children. The weekly lectures to the teachers on playground administration and psychology of play and the teachers' conferences, at which the playground problems were discussed, have kept before the staff the aims and purposes of playground work and have rounded out a policy of playground administration that insures maximum development and happiness for the children.

Any one reading the statistics of playground attendance, which are appended to this report, can realize how important this branch of park work is and how much it is appreciated.

The question of the future of the Essex County Speedway is again before this Board for determination. Originally laid out by the county, under legislative author-

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ity, for the use of horsemen, in 1902, it fell into disuse owing to the ever-increasing popularity of the race track at Weequahic Park. It is a broad strip of land about 150 feet wide and nearly a mile long, in the Town of Irvington. No streets were permitted to cross it, and it eventually became a detriment to the development of the surrounding land. It lay for many years unused and uncared for and deserted by those for whose pleasure it was established. The Board of Freeholders suggested that this Commission take it over for a parkway. This Board realized that it might be a valuable adjunct to the park system as a link in the future system of parkways and perhaps to a more limited extent in connection with Vailsburg Park, from which it is separated by only a small tract of land. The Commission was unwilling, however, to accept its management unless sufficient funds were in hand to put it in proper condition corresponding to the high degree of development maintained in the other parks of the park system. It, therefore, declined to accept the Speedway unless put in possession of a proper amount for its development. It should be noted that the suggestion for its incorporation into the park system came from the Freeholders without any solicitation on the part of the Park Commission. During the past year the Freeholders have turned over the Speedway by resolution to this Board and have signified their intention of securing from the Legislature authority to provide sufficient funds for its development along parkway lines. The formal transfer by the Freeholders has been made and the formal acceptance of this Board only awaits the raising of the funds for its improvement. We are assured that these will be secured from the Legislature of 1921. If this be accomplished, another tract of unused and unproductive land will be reclaimed, and by increased valuations on the surrounding properties will further justify the cost of the park system.

During the past year the County of Union has made a

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well-considered campaign to acquire for itself a park system modeled along the lines of that of our county. This Board, realizing the importance of such an undertaking, is doing all in its power to co-operate with and assist the citizens who have this matter in charge. Should the proposition carry, and it seems now to be assured, Union County will have a park system which will not only be a benefit to its citizens, but will be of advantage to the citizens of Essex as well. One of the suggestions in the preliminary plan is a parkway from Rahway to the Union County line at Springfield. Thence a connection can be made to South Mountain Reservation and thus through our system to Eagle Rock Reservation. This parkway would pass through and in part include the old Revolutionary battle ground at Springfield, and would offer splendid possibilities for a memorial to the heroes of that and succeeding wars in which this country has been engaged—especially the last great conflict. This movement on the part of Union County is mentioned here to show that tremendous park possibilities can be opened by the co-operation in these enterprises of contiguous counties. For example, should the county parkway system be carried to the county line of Essex and should Passaic co-operate by still further extending it, a boulevard would be established which would be as fine as any in the Eastern States.

The report of the Treasurer and a table of playground statistics is hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
CAMILLUS G. KIDDER,
EDWARD W. JACKSON.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HERewith
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1920**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION, 1920

RECEIPTS

Liberty Bonds on hand January 1, 1920....	\$100,000.00
Cash on hand January 1, 1920.....	149,893.11
Received from Essex County.....	\$199,708.50
Interest	8,153.19
	<u>207,861.69</u>
	\$457,754.80

DISBURSEMENTS

LAND:

Vailsburg Park	\$ 1,458.50	
Verona Park	82,600.00	
South Mountain Reservation.....	39,120.00	
		<u>123,178.50</u>

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Grover Cleveland Park.....	\$ 81.42	
Westside Park	579.63	
Vailsburg Park	506.65	
Belleville Park	641.07	
Verona Park	1,567.36	
		<u>3,376.13</u>

ITEMS

Grading .....	.....
Paving and Sewerage.....	\$ 437.50
Trees and Plants.....	309.20
Labor	2,257.48
Tools and Implements.....	.....
Gardening .....	.....
Buildings and Bridges.....	371.95
Fences and Fountains.....	.....
	<u>\$ 3,376.13</u>

OFFICE:

Legal Expenses	\$ 1,978.67	
Architects and Engineers.....	19,158.08	
		<u>21,136.75</u>
Liberty Bonds on hand December 31, 1920....	100,000.00	
Cash on hand December 31, 1920.....	210,063.42	
		<u>\$457,754.80</u>

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MAINTENANCE, 1920

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1920.....		\$ 521.91
Received from Essex County.....	\$412,000.00	
Rents	11,817.64	
Interest	729.34	
Miscellaneous	2,291.39	
	<u>426,838.37</u>	
		<u>\$427,360.28</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Branch Brook Park.....	\$124,554.35	
Weequahic Park	65,635.36	
Eastside Park	12,271.98	
Westside Park	18,408.77	
Orange Park	21,176.17	
Watessing Park	19,122.09	
Anderson Park	3,909.96	
Riverbank Park	6,673.53	
Irvington Park	9,627.36	
Glenfield Park	10,199.71	
Grover Cleveland Park.....	880.05	
Yanticaw Park	8,917.28	
Vailsburg Park	502.47	
Belleville Park	2,701.60	
Verona Park	1,084.73	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	11,748.86	
South Mountain Reservation.....	43,633.09	
East Orange Parkway.....	19,026.67	
Park Avenue	17,535.17	
Prospect Avenue	4,566.85	
	<u>402,176.05</u>	

ITEMS

Wages, Police	\$ 74,866.91
Wages, Labor	212,668.49
Tools and Supplies.....	114,640.65
	<u>\$402,176.05</u>

OFFICE:

Petty Cash .....	.....
Traveling	\$ 200.00
Stationery and Printing.....	3,057.52
Office Supplies	292.84
Salaries	17,164.50
Rents and Telephones.....	4,042.58
	<u>24,757.44</u>

Cash on hand December 31, 1920.....	426.79
	<u>\$427,360.28</u>

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

STATEMENT OF PARK POLICE PENSION FUND

December 31, 1920

Cash	\$ 6,485.25
Bond and Mortgage.....	46,100.00
Liberty Bonds	3,000.00
Contributions	\$ 55,585.25
Assessments	\$ 4,795.02
Fines	14,819.37
Excess Wages	320.45
Essex County Park Commission.....	715.32
Interest	21,753.23
Interest—Liberty Bonds	12,979.54
	202.32
	\$ 55,585.25

December 31, 1920.

This is to certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for 1920, and I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).

STATISTICS

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON 1920

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 1st. During the school session, the playgrounds were open from 3 to 6 P. M., and from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation the playgrounds were open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

JULY	Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
Branch Brook Park.....	26	26,005	7,603	5,846	13,848	1,644
Eastside Park	26	21,841	11,905	4,615	14,967	1,298
Westside Park	26	25,465	10,019	3,234	12,856	986
Orange Park	26	24,867	10,364	5,460	10,736	484
Watsessing Park	26	10,065	5,862	3,036	2,255	.....
Bloomfield Add.	26	12,650	7,771	4,233	4,600	.....
Riverbank Park.....	26	17,094	7,996	798	7,879	.....
Irvington Park	26	7,670	3,541	1,026	5,012	565
Glenfield Park	26	11,033	5,123	1,206	7,765	642
Weequahic Park	26	4,320	2,176	1,314	.....	.....
Yanticaw Park	26	3,427	3,972	1,239	.....	.....

AUGUST

Branch Brook Park.....	26	26,500	7,597	5,564	12,480	1,340
Eastside Park	26	21,984	11,854	4,561	14,607	1,355
Westside Park	26	25,556	10,195	3,342	12,586	900
Orange Park	26	24,977	10,404	5,206	10,500	460
Watsessing Park	26	10,560	5,926	3,100	2,360	.....
Bloomfield Add.	26	12,700	7,817	4,197	4,363	.....
Riverbank Park	26	17,149	7,900	701	7,798	.....
Irvington Park	26	7,507	3,414	962	4,821	320
Glenfield Park	26	11,344	5,032	1,160	7,657	524
Weequahic Park	26	4,451	2,261	1,241	.....	.....
Yanticaw Park	26	3,372	3,627	1,193	.....	.....

SKATING, WINTER OF 1919-1920

Number of Skaters

Branch Brook Park, 29 days.....	104,650
Weequahic Park, 31 days.....	115,025
Westside Park, 32 days.....	46,350
Watsessing Park, 33 days.....	27,875
Irvington Park, 35 days.....	21,885
Grover Cleveland Park, 31 days.....	17,520

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

GAME FIELDS

Branch Brook Park—

	FOOTBALL		BASEBALL	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Middle Division.....	2,562	5,845	2,976	15,902
Northern Division.....	250	578	654	1,468
Watsessing Park.....	70	1,806	205	1,595
Irvington Park.....	348	1,206	182	776
Weequahic Park.....	1,024	1,525	2,564	7,824
Eastside Park.....	225*	.....	.....	.....
Glenfield Park.....	100*	.....	90*	.....

* Practice—Schools and local clubs.

GOLF

Weequahic Park..... 31,212

Unusually open season—only one day of snow prior to December 31.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Branch Brook Park.....	6,000
Westside Park	2,546
Watsessing Park*	490
Eastside Park	400
Irvington Park	421
Glenfield Park	610
Weequahic Park	1,094
Riverbank Park	96

* Includes use of Bloomfield Addition where there is no regular track.

TENNIS

Branch Brook Park.....	2,600
Westside Park	1,924
Watsessing Park	65
Eastside Park	1,090
Irvington Park	430
Weequahic Park	8,062
Anderson Park	84
Orange Park	80

WADING POOLS

(Open July 1-Sept. 13)

Branch Brook Park.....	92,094
Westside Park	28,463
Orange Park	25,626
Riverbank Park	8,124
Glenfield Park	3,120
Watsessing Park	5,380
Yanticaw Park	3,867
Weequahic Park	5,020
Irvington Park*	9,241

* Closed Saturday afternoons to permit miniature yacht races.



MAR 21 1922

REPORT

OF THE



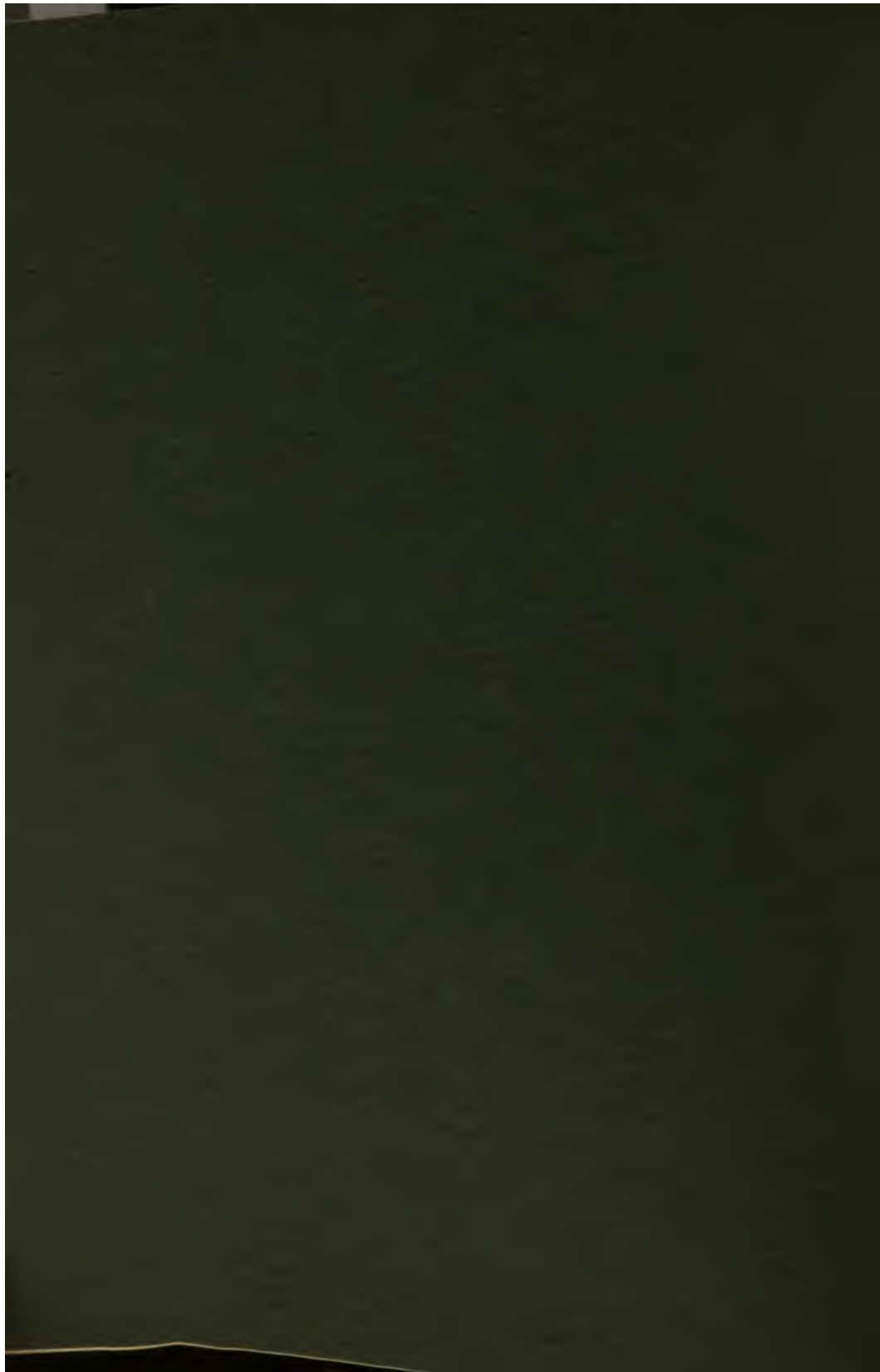
PARK COMMISSION

OF

ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

1921

1. 100 (S. 11, J. 1)
100 = 75



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

Twenty Sixth Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER THE ACT
APPROVED MARCH 5th, 1895

1921

BAKER PRINTING CO., NEWARK

an



COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR.....	Term Expires	1922
ALLISON DODD	" "	1923
JOHN R. HARDIN.....	" "	1924
EDWARD W. JACKSON.....	" "	1925
P. SANFORD ROSS.....	" "	1926

President

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR

Vice-President

P. SANFORD ROSS

Treasurer

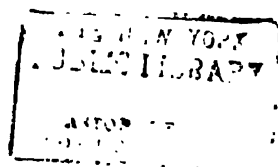
JOHN R. HARDIN

Secretary and Counsel

ALONZO CHURCH

Chief Engineer and General Superintendent

A. M. REYNOLDS





CAMILLUS G. KIDDER

810 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

January 1, 1922.

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-sixth annual report.

Again, within less than two years, this Board is called upon to announce the death of one of its members. For nine years the personnel of the Commission remained unchanged until, on February 24, 1920, Honorable Franklin Murphy, a park commissioner for twenty years, died. On October 20, 1921, Mr. Camillus G. Kidder answered the final summons. Mr. Kidder was appointed to succeed the late Frederick M. Shepard, President of the Board, on Mr. Shepard's resignation in December, 1911. He was reappointed for a full term in 1913 and again in 1918. At a special meeting of the Commission held on October 27, 1921, at which all his colleagues were present, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Again the Essex County Park Commission meets, in special session, with a vacant chair. Camillus G. Kidder, a Commissioner during the last ten years, answered the final summons Thursday, October twentieth, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, midway in the seventy-second year of a well-spent life. Called to the bar of the State of New York after a careful preparation in the academic and law departments of Harvard University, his energies were at all times chiefly devoted to the demands of his profession, in the practice of which he achieved deserved distinction. But in the midst of the activities of the busy lawyer he was ever mindful of civic duty, and recognized to the full the obligations of citizenship. Without inclination to seek the higher places in State or Nation for which he was by

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

nature, education and experience abundantly qualified, he was ready to serve, when called, in the humbler fields of the City and County of his residence, giving cheerfully of his time and wisdom in the stirring of the neighborhood conscience and the betterment of local government. He was conspicuously a good citizen, with a sturdy partisanship tempered by conscientious independence of thought and action when essential to the public need.

Mr. Kidder's association with the work of the Park Commission has been of great value to the people of the County and to his fellow Commissioners. His ways were quiet and unobtrusive, but his interest in the parks and their maintenance was earnest and intelligent and his counsel and advice in the deliberations of the Commission were always timely and well considered. As a man his temper was so even, his words so considerate and his manner so courteous, as to inspire respect and affection for him and delight in his companionship.

Resolved, that the foregoing minute be adopted and inscribed in the minutes of the Essex County Park Commission, as a tribute by the surviving Commissioners to their deceased associate.

On December 2, 1921, Chief Justice Wm. S. Gummere, under authority of the statute creating the Park Commission, appointed Mr. Allison Dodd, of Bloomfield, to fill out Mr. Kidder's term which would have expired in 1923. Mr. Dodd has always taken a deep interest in the work of this Board and it was largely through his unselfish effort that the Commission was enabled to carry to a successful conclusion the development of Watsessing Park. This service to the County by Mr. Dodd was adverted to in the report of the Commission for 1907, on page 18, as follows:

"It should be said here that this Board has been greatly assisted in the acquirement of land in this locality by Messrs. Allison Dodd, Charles R. Underwood and other public spirited citizens who have spent a great deal of time

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

in endeavoring to secure the land for the county at reasonable rates, and who also advanced their own money for the acquirement of property which could be secured more reasonably by individuals than by a public corporation."

Some mention was made in the last annual report of the Essex County Speedway. This for many years had been under the jurisdiction of the Board of Freeholders but had fallen into disuse. After negotiations extending over a number of years, it was agreed between this Board and the Freeholders that this Commission would take over the Speedway provided sufficient funds for its development were forthcoming. The Legislature of 1921 authorized the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$300,000 for this purpose. The Freeholders had already transferred the care, custody and control of this tract to the Commission, and on July 12, 1921, acting under the legislative authority above mentioned, turned over \$100,000 to this Board for the beginning of the improvement, and will turn over the balance in yearly installments of \$100,000. The Speedway adjoins Vailsburg Park, in the southwestern section of Newark, but there were certain properties intervening that had to be acquired to connect the two. As soon as this Board received this money, it began the acquisition of the property in question. Fifteen tracts of land at a cost of \$71,165 have thus far been secured, leaving two tracts to be acquired. It is the purpose of the Commission, in connecting the old Speedway with Vailsburg Park, to increase the park facilities in that locality and to bring again into attractive and beneficial use a strip of land 150 feet wide and nearly a mile long which has for many years been neglected and unsightly.

The entrance to the Speedway was formerly through a right of way 69 feet wide at Springfield Avenue which

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

is, of course, wholly inadequate for a parkway. In consequence land at this point has also been acquired. When the completion of the improvement is accomplished, there will be a continuous driveway from Springfield Avenue to South Orange Avenue of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The time will come when the citizens of the County will demand that the parks heretofore created by this Commission be connected by a system of boulevards regulated along parkway lines, and in anticipation of that this Board has had a system of parkways planned by our landscape architects; the old Speedway may become a link in such a system, but in any event as it now is connected with the park in the Vailsburg section, it cannot fail to increase to a considerable degree the improvement of the surrounding territory and the park attractions of the neighborhood. The Freeholders have agreed to turn over to this Board the remainder of the appropriation above referred to as it may be required in the further development of the scheme.

The policy of this Board has always been to ask for appropriations only as they are needed. This prevents the taxpayers from having to pay interest on bonds, the proceeds of which are not actually being used in park construction. The development of the Speedway therefore will proceed as rapidly as possible but the money will be asked for only as necessity arises.

The Legislature of 1919 passed an act authorizing the issuance of \$500,000 of additional park bonds for finishing certain improvements which the Great War had made impossible of completion with the funds on hand. This Board had been directed by acts of the Legislature, endorsed by the people on referendum, to develop certain additions to the park system, to wit, additions to West-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

side Park in Newark, Vailsburg Park in Newark, and parks in Belleville, Caldwell and Verona. During the war no steps in this direction were taken. At its close it was found that the amounts theretofore approved were insufficient on account of the increased cost of labor and materials; therefore, the act of 1919, above referred to, was passed to make up for the deficit in the earlier appropriations. \$100,000 of this \$500,000 authorization was turned over by the Freeholders to this Board on July 12, 1921. The Board immediately began the work of construction. The plan for the improvement of Vailsburg Park was given on page 8 of the last annual report, and considerable progress has been made in carrying this out. The Commission was fortunate in securing, at no cost, approximately 25,000 cubic yards of earth from nearby excavations which was used as filling for the border mounds. It is hoped that at least a portion of this park may be completed so that it may be used the latter part of 1922.

The citizens of the neighborhood surrounding this park petitioned this Board, through the Vailsburg Improvement Association, for permission to erect in it a monument to those from the vicinity who lost their lives during the Great War. This request was granted, subject, however, to the rules adopted by the Board to cover such cases. First of all, the memorial must be for all who went from the territory in which the monument is to stand. No memorial will be permitted to the members of a certain society or organization as this Commission feels that all who gave their lives, no matter how affiliated, should be equally honored for their supreme sacrifice. Therefore, there can be no inscription crediting its erection to any particular association. Again, the design of the memorial must be approved by the National Sculpture Society, and

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

the site by the landscape architects of this Board. This is to insure the creation of the best artistic designs. The Improvement Association at once saw the justice of these rules and consented to them. Their design has been approved by the National Sculpture Society and it is hoped that the monument may soon come into being, to be an everlasting lesson in patriotism to this and succeeding generations.

At Belleville Park the work of construction is also proceeding. A field house has been built for the accommodation of those using the tennis courts and baseball ground.

It is of concrete block construction with stucco finish and contains shower baths in addition to the usual field house facilities. The cost of the building was \$15,577. At this park also a house for use in connection with the children's playground has been completed. It is of the same design as the field house and its cost was \$11,782.

The plan for this park is similar in a general way to those in vogue in modern neighborhood parks. In general the scheme is as follows:

The construction work at Belleville Park—32 7/10 acres in area—was commenced in 1916 and considerable grading work was done that season. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining labor after the United States entered the Great War, and for a year or so after its end, no more work was done on this park until the spring of 1921. The park is now practically completed and will be open to the public next season. The plan for the improvement of this tract included, in addition to the usual park features of lawns, walks and plantations, baseball and football fields, also tennis courts. The small children also have their play-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

grounds with wading pool, sand courts and playground apparatus.

Substantial progress has been made in the development of the addition to Westside Park. The necessity of this acquisition and the plan of its improvement have been adverted to in preceding reports. This improvement was started last May and the grading has been completed. The athletic field, running track and ball field, formerly in the old portion of the park, will be located in this area. Tennis courts will be laid out on the portion of the original park now used as an athletic field. The plans call for the construction in the new section of a field house for the accommodation of those using the ball field and athletic grounds and also a children's shelter to be used in connection with the wading pool and children's playground.

At Verona Park no actual work of development has been attempted as the acquisition of the land is still incomplete. The Board was able to acquire either through purchase or condemnation all the land required save two small pieces owned by the Erie Railroad. The Company contended that the Commission was without authority to take over this land because it was part of a right of way acquired but never used by the Company in 1867. Certiorari proceedings were instituted by the Railroad and after argument Chief Justice Gummere denied the application and upheld the power of this Board to condemn. The case is still in the courts and, therefore, improvement has been retarded. This is to be regretted as this portion of the system is peculiarly adapted for park uses. It includes a most attractive lake and every facility for open-air enjoyment. However, this Board has been able to throw open to the public such portions as it has hitherto acquired, and boating, skating and picnicing are permitted

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

and largely patronized not only by those in the immediate vicinity but by the citizens of the County at large.

The Commission in its previous reports has frequently adverted to the fact that the driveways through the older parts of the system are in need of repairs. They were built before the advent of the automobile and their foundations were not sufficient to withstand the added burden. 17,100 square yards of roadway pavement in Branch Brook Park were re-surfaced with asphalt and trap rock screenings. The cost was \$27,908. It is the policy of the Commission to re-surface a portion of these pavements each year as its funds will permit. The roadway in Orange Park was also improved, although in not as substantial a manner as the roadways of Branch Brook Park and East Orange Parkway, owing to the Commission not having sufficient funds. Two thousand ninety-seven square yards were re-surfaced at six thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars. This work was done in 1920. Following out this idea, the Board decided to improve the driveways through South Mountain Reservation. South Orange Avenue, within the park limits, was turned over to the Commission under the park act by the Freeholders on November 11, 1909. The Telford pavement was built some thirty years ago and had become wholly inadequate. To remedy this the old road was replaced by a reinforced concrete pavement 16 feet wide with 3 feet bituminous wings on each side. The length of the roadway paved was 8,030 feet and the cost was \$51,819.54. A reinforced concrete pavement was also laid on Brookside Drive from Glen Avenue for a distance of 6,000 feet. The roadway was widened from 14 feet to 26 feet and many sharp and dangerous curves eliminated. The concrete pavement is 20 feet in width. The total cost of this work was \$46,339.74.

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The increasing number of people who attend the band concerts at Branch Brook Park made it desirable to erect two comfort stations in the concert grove in the southern division. The buildings are of concrete block construction with stone finish and of simple design. They are very inconspicuous as they were located within the vine clad arbors to the east of the bandstand and are almost completely hidden by the foliage. The cost of the two buildings was \$14,882.

The need of additional playgrounds in the congested sections of Newark is constantly increasing. The Board determined, therefore, to transform the small park area of a little over one acre, bounded by Sixth Avenue, Mt. Prospect Avenue and Garside Street, into a children's playground. A wading pool 60 feet by 25 feet was built and also sand courts and an open shelter. The cost of the improvement was \$5,000. The popularity of this development was immediate. A very large number of children from the neighborhood, which is greatly congested and inhabited by those in moderate circumstances, used it daily. It is proposed during the next year to further increase these facilities by the installation of playground equipment.

Acceding to the wishes of a large number of citizens whose love of horses has not been superseded by the automobile, a bridle path has been constructed through the Middle and Northern Divisions of this park. It begins near the Park Avenue bridge, crossing the canal, and winds in and out among the trees, seldom approaching the paths and roadways, and ends at Ballantine Parkway. Its length is about two miles and it varies in width from ten to twelve feet. It in no way detracts from the picturesque beauty of the park as it is almost entirely concealed by the

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

plantations. It furnishes a splendid opportunity for healthful exercise under entirely safe conditions and through a stretch of most attractive scenery. It is becoming increasingly popular and has already furnished enjoyment to many.

In the last annual report reference was made to the request by the authorities of the City of Newark that this Board install a swimming pool in the old reservoir in the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park. The Commission then gave its reasons, based in part upon the reports of experts of the City, why in its judgment such a scheme is impractical. The City authorities have renewed their request for the establishment of this pool on the site mentioned. This Board has not changed its opinion as to the inadvisability of such an undertaking. The expense involved, in the opinion of the Commission, is not commensurate with the advantages to be derived. This Board, recognizing the desirability of swimming pools when properly developed, has suggested to the City another proposition. The Commission has offered to turn over for this purpose the tract of land on Garside Street mentioned above. This would enable the Commission to transfer the present playground now located at the corner of Clifton and Eighth Avenues to the old reservoir site, and would clear the way for an entrance to the park at this point. The City authorities have frequently urged this upon the Park Commission. At the present time those who desire to enter the park must go north on Clifton Avenue, entering the park at Sixth Avenue; then turning south again, drive to a point directly opposite the proposed Clifton Avenue entrance, and so through the park to Park Avenue. The route is circuitous but cannot be improved without interfering with the present playground.

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It would greatly help traffic conditions in the City of Newark if this scheme could be carried out, and the only practical way, in the judgment of this Board, is to proceed along the lines indicated above. The whole matter is still in process of negotiation between the Commission and the City authorities and it is hoped that a way may be found to harmonize the conflicting interests of the two corporations, each acting for the best interests of the taxpayers as they see it, without undue delay.

At Yanticaw Park nineteen electric lights have been installed upon the most important paths across the park. The posts are of concrete and the current supplied through an armored cable laid in a trench about 15 inches deep. This method of installation necessitated very little disturbance of the surface and considerably reduced the cost of the work, which was \$3,585.60. The Commission has planted a tree in this park in accordance with the request of the citizens of that locality. The idea is to use it during the Christmas holiday season in conjunction with the local civic bodies, to impress upon the public the spirit of the festival and as an aid in the development of the community spirit. The parks of Essex County are for the use of all its people and this Board is glad to increase their possibilities of enjoyment in any reasonable way. If the experiment thus attempted is successful, it may, in the future, be extended to other parks and made to include Christmas carols and other festivities in celebration of the holiday season.

Another example of this desire to foster the community spirit is to be noted in the presentation in Orange Park of a very successful program by the Community Chorus of the Oranges. On June 11th, this organization, consisting of about 400 people, assisted by the Plainfield Com-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

munity Chorus, gave a most interesting musical evening. Haydn's creation in part was rendered by the choruses; Marie Stapleton-Murray, soprano; Judson House, tenor; Fred Patton, basso and a band of forty men selected from the Metropolitan Opera and Symphony Orchestras. A stage was erected on one of the broad lawns, decorated to harmonize with its sylvan background. A special system of lighting was installed, the expense being defrayed by those interested in the entertainment. The various chorus groups were appropriately costumed and marched from the assembly point to their places upon the stage. The selections included excerpts from the finest classical productions, as well as popular songs and choruses in which all the spectators could join. A vast audience attended and it was evident that the efforts of those in charge had met with enthusiastic approval and that the affair was an entire success. The expense was met by voluntary subscriptions from individual citizens. For many years the Commission has encouraged the production of music in the parks under its jurisdiction. Concerts during the summer months have been given in all the Newark city parks. Bandstands have been erected to aid in their success and this Board has done what it could to facilitate the enjoyment of the people in this way. Good music is an education as well as a recreation, and these two features should always be combined by those who strive to make the parks a benefit to the people. It is hoped that the Community Chorus idea, so unselfishly and successfully developed by the citizens of the Oranges, under the wise leadership of Mrs. F. W. Tooker, may be imitated by other neighborhoods, and that music in all the parks, properly conducted and supervised, may become more popular, especially in those parks without the limits of the

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

City of Newark which now have not perhaps responded in full measure to the community spirit.

The Commission has given its consent to the request of the authorities of the City of Newark to run a twenty-four inch water main across the southwestern corner of Weequahic Park, in order to furnish the industrial plants along Frelinghuysen Avenue with increased water facilities. This was, in the opinion of the City authorities in which this Board concurred, a necessity, and although other schemes could have been developed which would have avoided tearing up park property at the temporary inconvenience of those who use it, the Commission felt that the saving of expense in conjunction with a needed public improvement should be considered, and carrying out its policy of co-operating in all possible ways with other public corporations, it gladly gave its consent.

The popularity of golfing at Weequahic Park is increasing every year. During 1913 a course consisting of nine holes was laid out at the southerly end of Weequahic Park "as an experiment." This course was designed by Mr. George Low, Professional of the Baltusrol Club. Because of the insufficiency of land, it was not possible to construct a course of 18 holes. The following year the course was opened on July 4th. A small building, containing shower baths, lavatories and about 120 lockers was erected. From July 4, 1914 to December 31 of the same year over 6,000 games were played on the links. In 1915, owing to this increased use of the golf course, it was found necessary to build an addition to the house in order to accommodate the large number of players. In this building were placed additional lockers. During the golfing season of 1915, 13,626 games were played, and this yearly increase of the use of the links has prevailed ever since the opening day

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

in 1914. During 1921, there were played 57,000 games on this 9-hole course. There were 1,554 players having seasonal tickets, and 10,317 daily tickets were issued to others. Lockers have been added from time to time, the number being at present 332. There is no room for more. Their distribution previously had been made on a day and hour fixed under the principle of "first come, first served." It was found that this method precluded those whose occupations prevented their attendance at this time. The method was, therefore, changed to that of drawing by lot in order to give every one desiring a locker an equal chance. To all players whose names were on file in the Commission's office, or to any player making request, was sent an application blank to be filled out and signed by the applicant and returned with the proper fees in the envelope accompanying the notice. These envelopes were then placed in a receptacle on the day fixed for the assignment of lockers, and drawn by lot and a locker assigned to the applicant corresponding in number to the number of the order of the drawing. In the judgment of the Board this method is fair and equitable and precludes any suggestion of favoritism. It is evident from the figures presented above that the 9-hole golf course at Weequahic Park has passed the point of "experiment." Its popularity is beyond question. It might even be said that it is over popular, or in other words, overcrowded.

The standard or regulation golf course contains 18 holes and is in the neighborhood of 6,000 yards in length. Weequahic Park course is 3,027 yards long. The membership of most of the private 18-hole courses is limited to 300. The number of players on the 9-hole Weequahic Park golf course with seasonal tickets, during 1921, was, therefore, over five times greater than the membership in many of

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

the private courses having 18 holes. This calculation does not include the 10,317 games played by individuals upon daily applications.

In an article in *Golfer's Magazine* on "Municipal Golf in the United States" republished in the *New York Times*, it appears that Chicago ranks first with five public municipal links—one with 27 holes and two with 18 holes, the remaining two with 9 holes. Indianapolis has also five, four of 18 and one of 9 holes. Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Springfield, Ill. and Rochester have two each. Philadelphia has an 18-hole course at Cobb's Creek Park, and San Francisco is building a second municipal course.

One of the most attractive free exhibitions ever held in a public park was a three-days-amateur-race-meeting given at Weequahic Park last July, when the Annual Inter-Club Matinee of the Junior League of Amateur Driving Clubs of America was run off under the auspices of the Road Horse Association of New Jersey. Twenty races were contested, without a complaint of any kind being heard, by enthusiasts from Boston, Hartford, Goshen, Newark, New York and other cities, embracing men from almost every walk of life, coming for the gratification of their pleasure or to seek relaxation from their cares, and mingling together with simplicity and good fellowship.

It appeared that every detail had been anticipated and arranged for. From the time the horses were called for the first race until the finish of the day's program there were no idle moments, and unnecessary delays between heats were not countenanced. The decisions rendered from the Judge's stand were accepted without dispute with every evidence of approbation by both the participants and spectators irrespective of who was the winner. The attendance

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

was enormous, estimated by experts at over 75,000; every part of the meet moved along with the precision of a well-oiled piece of machinery. The Grand Stand was packed to its limit each day; the track was surrounded by automobiles from two to five deep; the surrounding elevations (natural bleachers) were black with sight-seers and the fence adjacent to the oval was lined with people from wire to wire. It was a marvel to all and conceded by the leading turf journals throughout the country to have been one of the most successful meetings, amateur or professional, ever held. The local Road Horse Association, who hold matinees at the park every Saturday during the summer season, was responsible for this entertainment for the benefit of the public. The Essex County Park Commission is glad to give them the credit to which they are entitled. There can be no doubt that these races, held during the summer season, give enjoyment to thousands and greatly increase the popularity of this park.

The visitor to the forest reservations at South Mountain and Eagle Rock, walking or motoring along the roads or wandering through the woods, frequently fails to appreciate, in spite of warning notices, that wild flowers should not be plucked, shrubs should not be cut or broken, and even of greater necessity is the safeguarding of the forests against damage by fire. Depredations of this kind result from thoughtlessness rather than viciousness. The Commission can only afford to maintain a small police force in the reservations. If, however, it were possible to have a considerable number of regular visitors, willing to act as caretakers and clothed with some authority, it should be very helpful. In this connection there occurred the thought of the Boy Scouts as a body that might assume such a duty. The scout executives of different sections of the

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

County were called together and the matter discussed with them, resulting in the formation of the Boy Scout Park Police consisting of 35 members who were duly mustered into service June 22nd, 1921, and furnished with badges, copies of park ordinances, books of instruction and blank forms for rendering reports. They have already given evidence of their interest in their duties, not only in the reservations but in the several parks of the County System as well, sufficient to warrant expectations of valuable service in the future, and in addition there is the great advantage of a considerable number of our boys growing into manhood imbued with the conviction that public property to be enjoyed must be protected against depredation.

The Commission has, during the past year, made an effort to increase the facilities for reaching South Mountain Reservation. Arrangements were made with an operator of a bus line to start from the Lackawanna station at South Orange and carry visitors up the mountain to the corner of Cherry Lane and South Orange Avenue on Sundays and holidays. The experiment was inaugurated in August, and while it was not absolutely successful, the Board feels that further efforts in this direction should be made during the coming summer in order that the people may have easier access to one of the finest of the County Parks.

The Commission has secured the property of the Millburn Improvement Association in this Reservation at the corner of Brookside Drive and Glen Avenue at a cost of \$4,000. This acquisition completes the acquirement of land in this locality and, as noted in the last annual report, rounds out the reservation to boundaries heretofore recommended by its landscape architects.

In 1917 a bill was passed by the Legislature authorizing

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

the issuance of \$400,000 of park bonds for the extension of Branch Brook Park northward from its present boundary at Fredonia Avenue. The act contained a referendum clause which provided that the Park Commission should submit it to the approval of the people in its discretion. The Commission has taken no action in the matter. This inaction is in large part due to the fact that this Board felt no extensions of the System should be urged during the period of the Great War. Now, however, that conditions are approaching normal and municipal activities are again coming to the front, the Commission desires the public to carefully consider this question. The people of the northern section of Newark have already in Branch Brook Park a tract of 280 acres, furnishing almost every means of out-of-door enjoyment in a most attractive landscape setting. The location of this park is responsible for the high-class residential development which has grown up about it and which has caused the so-called Forest Hill section of Newark to become one of the most attractive portions of the City. The proponents of this act urge that to extend this park northward would greatly add to its usefulness, would tend in large measure to the further development of the neighborhood, and would permanently protect that section from encroachments by factories and other so-called improvements which injure the territory set aside for high-class homes. In the inception of the park movement in this County, the preliminary commissioners recommended the inclusion of this area within the limits of Branch Brook Park. The permanent board decided to make Fredonia Avenue the boundary for the time being but recognizes the fact that a further extension of Branch Brook Park would not only be helpful to the surrounding neighborhood but would

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

also furnish a link in a system of park development extending through Belleville and Nutley and from there perhaps to the Orange Mountains.

It may appear at times that properties are acquired for park purposes unnecessarily far in advance of the needs of the municipality or even of the adjacent neighborhood, but it is doubtful if that is ever a valid criticism. Municipal areas in Essex County are being so rapidly taken up for residential and business purposes that where park needs are to be satisfied without excessive cost, lands must be obtained before such building development gets well under way, and especially must they be acquired in advance of the erection of buildings thereon, because to buy and raze buildings in order to obtain the use of the land may easily make the cost so great as to seem prohibitive; thus it is found that considerable areas within a municipality become seriously congested without a foot of vacant land being left upon which a neighborhood recreation center can be established. Probably the most notable instance of that in Essex County is the Third Ward of the City of Newark, wherein a population of 35,343 is living upon 270 acres—an average of 125 persons upon each acre. An appreciation of what this means may be realized by comparing the area and population of the Third Ward of Newark with some of the larger municipalities in the County; for instance:

	Area	Population
Third Ward	270 acres	35,343
Montclair	3,940 "	28,810
Orange	1,400 "	33,268
East Orange	2,502 "	50,710
Bloomfield	3,469 "	22,019

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Aside from a small playground maintained by the Board of Education for school children, there is no open space within the boundaries of this Ward.

It is a gratification to be able to record the fact that Union County has adopted the act under which this Board has been working for twenty-six years. Co-operation in park undertakings is as important as in other large enterprises. As has been noted in preceding reports, a park system of enormous value to the State can be developed if the individual counties, acting together under the same legislative authority, can so arrange their endeavors as to make each the part of an harmonious whole. In this way parkways can be elaborated which can extend for miles. Narrow municipal barriers can thereby be surmounted and the public at large can enjoy a park system common to all the citizens of the State but confined within no local boundaries.

The report of the Treasurer and a table of playground statistics is hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
EDWARD W. JACKSON,
ALLISON DODD.

TREASURER'S R E P O R T

**THE TREASURER SUBMITS HEREWITH
A TABULATED STATEMENT OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1921**

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

CONSTRUCTION, 1921

RECEIPTS

Liberty Bonds on hand January 1, 1921.....	\$100,000.00
Cash on hand January 1, 1921.....	210,063.42
Received from Essex County.....	\$199,534.00
Interest	7,485.59
	<u>207,019.59</u>
	\$517,083.01

DISBURSEMENTS

LAND:

Vailsburg Park	\$1,067.50
Verona Park	51,676.65
South Mountain Reservation.....	3,954.02
Speedway	71,165.00
	<u>\$127,863.17</u>

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Westside Park	\$9,798.87
Grover Cleveland Park.....	29,562.51
Vailsburg Park	31,116.85
Belleville Park	37,121.85
Verona Park	8,216.66
South Mountain Reservation.....	101,018.04
Speedway	63.32
	<u>216,898.10</u>

ITEMS

Grading	\$658.04
Paving and Sewerage.....	102,698.20
Trees and Plants.....	1,627.17
Labor	83,991.58
Tools and Implements.....	541.73
Gardening	388.44
Buildings and Bridges.....	23,972.75
Fences and Fountains.....	3,020.19
	<u>\$216,898.10</u>

OFFICE:

Legal Expenses	\$7,971.83
Architects and Engineers.....	20,219.55
	<u>28,191.38</u>
Liberty Bonds on hand December 31, 1921...	100,000.00
Cash on hand December 31, 1921.....	44,130.36
	<u>\$517,083.01</u>

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

MAINTENANCE, 1921

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1921.....		\$426.79
Received from Essex County.....	\$450,000.00	
Rents	17,230.55	
Miscellaneous	7,690.29	
	<u>474,920.84</u>	

\$475,347.63

DISBURSEMENTS

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Branch Brook Park.....	\$168,268.37	
Weequahic Park	74,616.71	
Eastside Park	12,787.18	
Westside Park	17,485.47	
Orange Park	14,464.51	
Watsessing Park	20,590.17	
Anderson Park	4,149.61	
Riverbank Park	6,637.65	
Irvington Park	10,715.66	
Glenfield Park	10,400.84	
Grover Cleveland Park	2,683.34	
Yanticaw Park	12,568.29	
Vailsburg Park	1,521.38	
Belleville Park	2,429.86	
Verona Park	2,419.90	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	12,820.06	
South Mountain Reservation.....	44,915.92	
East Orange Parkway.....	6,739.54	
Park Avenue	17,185.45	
Prospect Avenue	5,433.62	
	<u>\$448,833.53</u>	

ITEMS

Wages, Police	\$77,272.88
Wages, Labor	239,181.10
Tools and Supplies—Superintendent..	117,681.30
Tools and Supplies—Police.....	14,698.25

\$448,833.53

OFFICE:

Petty Cash	\$50.00	
Traveling	293.33	
Stationery and Printing.....	3,399.71	
Office Supplies	362.51	
Salaries	17,373.86	
Rents and Telephones	4,782.23	
	<u>26,261.64</u>	

Cash on hand December 31, 1921.....

252.46

\$475,347.63

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

P A R K C O M M I S S I O N E R S ' R E P O R T

STATEMENT OF PARK POLICE PENSION FUND

December 31, 1921

Cash	\$5,911.03
Bond and Mortgage	55,800.00
Liberty Bonds	3,000.00
	\$64,711.03
Contributions	\$5,006.27
Assessments	16,931.78
Fines	320.45
Excess Wages	838.53
Essex County Park Commission.....	25,444.31
Interest	15,834.87
Interest—Liberty Bonds	334.82
	\$64,711.03

December 31, 1921.

This is to certify that I have examined the books of the Commission and the items of receipts and vouchers for 1921, and I find all items correctly stated.

S. H. WENCK,
Certified Public Accountant (Ill.).

STATISTICS

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SEASON, 1921

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 15. During the school session, the playgrounds were open from 3 to 6 P. M., and from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation the playgrounds were open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

	Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
JULY						
Branch Brook	26	25,015	6,740	5,468	12,500	1,264
Eastside	26	20,671	10,865	4,751	12,876	903
Westside	26	23,961	10,191	3,143	11,967	768
Orange	26	22,678	9,436	4,989	10,143	401
Watsessing	26	9,746	4,934	3,221	2,148	157
Bloomfield Addition..	26	10,564	6,172	3,323	3,979	....
Riverbank	26	14,170	5,938	621	6,798	....
Irvington	26	6,671	2,914	962	4,821	456
Glenfield	26	10,895	4,898	1,062	6,675	524
Weequahic	26	4,002	1,967	1,241	2,195	....
Yanticaw	26	3,172	2,984	1,193	....	....
AUGUST						
Branch Brook	27	26,813	6,890	5,408	12,656	1,045
Eastside	27	21,514	11,053	4,867	11,340	900
Westside	27	24,765	10,819	3,836	11,670	887
Orange	27	23,516	9,646	5,040	10,564	436
Watsessing	27	9,967	5,129	3,312	2,400	217
Bloomfield Addition..	27	10,846	6,240	3,461	3,887	....
Riverbank	27	14,307	6,084	600	6,809	....
Irvington	27	6,517	2,835	894	4,610	401
Glenfield	27	10,952	4,926	1,003	6,556	493
Weequahic	27	4,139	2,122	1,111	3,864	....
Yanticaw	27	3,927	3,041	1,086	1,053	....

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

SKATING, WINTER OF 1920-1921

Number of Skaters

Branch Brook Park—11 days.....	30,350
Weequahic Park—12 days.....	43,300
Westside Park—12 days.....	19,850
Watsessing Park—12 days.....	15,200
Irvington Park—12 days.....	6,125
Grover Cleveland Park—16 days.....	6,950
Verona Park—11 days.....	26,675

GAME FIELDS

	FOOTBALL		BASEBALL	
	Players	Attendance	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park—				
Middle Division	3,142	25,900	6,984	172,625
Northern Division	594	7,947	5,861	77,325
Watsessing Park	130	2,580	570	2,690
Bloomfield Addition	376	4,778	235	1,767
Irvington Park	450	2,117	296	1,234
Weequahic Park	2,351	9,025	5,552	38,872
Eastside Park	200*	....	....	....
Glenfield Park	120*		90*	

* Practice—Schools and Clubs.

GOLF

Weequahic Park	57,019
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ATHLETIC FIELDS

Branch Brook Park.....	6,234
Westside Park	2,826
Watsessing Park*	680
Eastside Park	495
Irvington Park	386
Glenfield Park	715
Weequahic Park	1,000
Riverbank Park	112

* Includes use of Bloomfield Addition where there is no regular track.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

TENNIS, 1921

Branch Brook Park	3,741
Westside Park	2,101
Watsessing Park	25
Eastside Park	855
Irvington Park	300
Weequahic Park	10,145
Anderson Park	75
Orange Park	60

WADING POOLS

(Open July 1—September 17)

Branch Brook Park	90,765
Westside Park	26,931
Orange Park	24,202
Riverbank Park	7,776
Glenfield Park	3,408
Watsessing Park	5,040
Yanticaw Park	3,078
Weequahic Park	5,175
Irvington Park*	8,967

* Closed Saturday afternoons to permit miniature yacht races.

CRICKET

	Players	Attendance
Branch Brook Park	942	1,850



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1922
Report of the
PARK COMMISSION
of
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

TWENTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

 Essex County
Park Commission

1922

*Appointed under the act
approved March 5, 1895*

COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS

ALLISON DODD
Term Expires 1923

EDWARD W. JACKSON
Term Expires 1925

JOHN R. HARDIN
Term Expires 1924

P. SANFORD ROSS
Term Expires 1926

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR
Term Expires 1927

President

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR

Vice-President

P. SANFORD ROSS

Treasurer

JOHN R. HARDIN

Secretary

DAVID I. KELLY

Counsel

J. H. HARRISON

Chief Engineer and General Superintendent

A. M. REYNOLDS

REPORT

810 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

January 1, 1923

The Essex County Park Commission presents herewith its Twenty-Seventh Annual Report.

Substantial progress was made in the construction work outlined in the 1921 Annual Report.

The Vailsburg Park construction is nearing completion. The site which was termed a detriment to the Vailsburg section of Newark, because of the amusement park conducted therein, is rapidly taking form, and by next summer it will be an attractive formal park and recreation center.

The Commission was fortunate in securing, without cost, large quantities of filling material and top soil from excavations being made for building operations in the immediate vicinity of the park. Nearly two-thirds of the grading and planting is done. The whole development, including buildings, will be completed by next summer.

The sloping mounds of plantations, green play areas, winding paths, the children's wading pool and playground are a marked contrast to the unsightly heaps of debris and the water-filled depressions of a year ago. An attractive feature of development was adopted to give the park a setting and to shut out the noise and view of the city streets. A border mound of pleasing contour, thickly planted, was placed along the South Orange Avenue, Munn Avenue and southerly lines of the park. This treatment is most effective and will give to those within the park the impression of distance from the city.

A study is being made of the type of buildings that will best harmonize with the landscape development. John

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

H. and Wilson C. Ely, architects, submitted sketches of English cottage type buildings with walls of weathered trap rock and roofs of variegated, graduated Vermont slate. The design of the eaves and the arrangement of the plantations will give the buildings the appearance of growing out of the ground. Spacious covered loggias, half timbered in a weathered finish, are shown as extensions from the children's building.

A field house, comfort station, children's building and a band stand will be constructed next spring.

Provision will be made for shower baths, lavatories, locker rooms, dressing rooms and check rooms. The children's building will be equipped to meet the needs for playground and sand court activities.

The National Sculpture Society approved the model of the monument to be erected by the citizens of Vailsburg to the memory of those from the vicinity who died in the World War. The monument will be erected probably during the coming year.

Westside Park addition is practically completed. Magnolia Swamp, formerly so called because of the boggy nature of the ground, is now a joy and an asset to the neighborhood. The spacious gamefield and playground will provide a much needed improvement. The original area of the park was totally inadequate to comfortably accommodate the large crowds of adults and children that frequent this park. The transfer of the athletic field, gymnasium and children's playground to the addition will permit a wider use of the old park by adults. The major part of the seeding and planting was done this fall. Next spring the entire landscape development will be completed. The field house and children's build-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ing are nearing completion. Mr. Frank A. Wright, Architect, prepared the design and plans for a mission type of buildings. The model of the building exhibited to the Commission shows unusual and pleasing architecture. The buildings will be equipped with every convenience for the athletes and for playground work. Comfort stations for both men and women were provided and were so arranged that, while a part of the building, they can be used without in any way interfering with the use of the building as a field house. The construction work on the buildings will be completed before spring.

Legal proceedings in the condemnation of land in the Verona tract made it necessary to further postpone the development of this park.

Negotiations are now under way for the transfer of the land owned by the Erie Railroad Company to the Commission upon the agreement that the Erie Railroad Company will retain a right-of-way across the park by means of a bridge, the design of which shall conform to the landscape development, and shall meet with the approval of the Commission. The sketches presented to the Commission for the type and design of a bridge that may later be built, show a series of high, ornamental arches spanning the lake and roadway. The Commission hopes that the unusual and technical legal question involved in the proceedings will soon be settled.

The public was not seriously inconvenienced by the postponement of the development work. The park was formerly a private picnic park and lends itself admirably for recreation purposes. The commercial features heretofore conducted were removed. Boating, bathing and skating are permitted on the lake. Permits are issued for picnics, pageants and band concerts.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The landscape plans for the park, prepared by Olmsted Brothers, were approved by the Commission. The development work will be started as soon as the negotiations with the Erie Railroad Company are completed. The Commission plans to carry forward the development of the park so as to interfere as little as possible with the use and enjoyment of it by the public.

An athletic field, with running track, six laps to the mile, was built in Watsessing Park on the land between Roosevelt Avenue and Second River. This field will relieve the crowding in the field house and upon the track in the East Orange end of the park. The new field is in close proximity to the field house in the Bloomfield end. Although the field was completed late in the season, it was largely used.

A cricket crease was laid out in Watsessing Park adjacent to Glenwood Avenue. League games were played on Saturdays and holidays. The visiting teams complimented the Newark and Bloomfield teams upon the fine crease maintained by the Commission.

Three additional tennis courts were laid out in Watsessing Park. The courts adjacent to Dodd Street are quite a distance from the northern end of the park and are used mostly by the children who frequent the playground.

An attractive feature was added to Weequahic Park. A rose garden was constructed and planted southwest of Divident Hill, adjoining the hardy garden. Over 1400 rose plants in 86 varieties were set out. These will be appropriately marked for the information of the public. The garden measures 120 feet by 70 feet, and is enclosed by a rustic trellis of cedar. Artistically arched arbors form entrances on two sides. Chains were hung to loop

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

from the top of the uprights along the four sides. Climbing roses were planted and will be trained to grow over the trellis and along the chains. The cost of this improvement was \$2,353. This rose garden and the adjoining hardy garden are well worth visiting during the entire summer.

Considerable planting was done on Park Avenue in Newark and East Orange. The plantations in the planting strip were trimmed low and shaped so that the intersecting streets and cross-walks may be plainly seen by autoists driving on Park Avenue.

The installation of electric lighting in Anderson and Westside parks was completed. Twenty-two lamps were installed at Anderson Park at a cost of \$2,506, and twenty-five lamps were installed at Westside Park at a cost of \$2,789. The posts in Anderson Park are ornamental reinforced concrete, color and texture resembling gray granite. The posts in Westside Park are cast iron of ornamental design. The opalescent globes are fitted with 100 candlepower lamps. The new system of lighting is an improvement over the naphtha gas lamps. The new lamps cast a soft, diffusing light which is pleasing and efficient.

Following the policy of the Commission, adopted in 1920, to replace the naphtha gas lamps with electric lamps as funds permit, plans are being prepared for an electric lighting system for Orange Park, Northern Division of Branch Brook Park and Park Avenue.

20,847 square yards of roadway in the Northern Division of Branch Brook Park, and 11,747 square yards of roadway in East Orange Parkway were re-surfaced. The roadway in the Middle Division of Branch Brook Park was widened to the sod edges and re-surfaced. The

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

width of the roadway was thereby increased approximately 10 feet.

The replacement of roadways in the several parks presents a unique problem at present. Modern road construction is expensive. To replace the many miles of old type roads in the county park system with roads constructed under modern road specifications, would, in the opinion of the Commission, be entirely too burdensome upon the taxpayers. Consequently the old roads must be repaired and the cost of the work kept, as far as possible, within the estimated depreciation, interest and maintenance cost of a modern pavement.

The Commission Engineer has resorted to the treatment of the old macadam roads with crushed stone, bitumen and screenings. Roads thus treated last for several years under our traffic conditions and furnish a very good roadway.

Construction work on the Speedway was not attempted this year. The additional land needed for the development was acquired. The plans for a parkway boulevard from Springfield Avenue to South Orange Avenue via the Speedway, and through Vailsburg Park are being prepared.

The Commission hopes to secure legislation authorizing the issuance of bonds for the purchase of land north of South Orange Avenue to Wilcox Place, East Orange, which will enable the Board to continue the parkway north to connect eventually with the East Orange Parkway.

A study is being made of the suggestions submitted by the Council of East Orange to extend East Orange Parkway from Park Avenue north to Springdale Avenue.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

At the general election held in November the voters of the county indicated their attitude toward the extension of Branch Brook Park by approving the act of the Legislature passed during the 1917 session, authorizing the issuance of bonds in the sum of \$400,000 for the construction of a parkway boulevard north from Branch Brook Park to Mill Street, Belleville. The land needed will be obtained as soon as possible.

The annual flower show at the greenhouse, Branch Brook Park, November 4th to 14th, was well attended each day. Varieties of chrysanthemums, begonias, jasmine plants, ferns and of flora and fauna families were attractively exhibited.

Demonstrations of the radio for public concerts in the parks were held in Branch Brook Park. The Commission feels that the radio will be perfected and that it may be utilized to furnish entertainment of high order at very little expense.

A plan was prepared by the Engineer and tentatively approved by the Commission for the reconstruction of Eastside Park. Gamefields and playgrounds have been fitted, year by year, into every available space in the park. The constant use of the lawns for play purposes, and the demands for more play facilities make it impossible to maintain the present plantation and flower bed arrangement within reasonable cost. The park has outgrown its original design. It will be reconstructed to meet the needs for recreation and to provide formal landscape treatment and development consistent with the use of the park for recreation.

An evidence of the interest in this park on the part of citizens of the district was shown when a committee of representative men called upon the Commission and

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

presented a petition to change the name of this park to Independence Park. The benefits of the park to the people were pointed out by the committee. The speakers urged that the Commission adopt the name Independence Park because it will bring to the park a new significance in the minds of the foreign-born population. The committee submitted this name as being most appropriate for a park touching upon or adjacent to streets that have been named after the presidents of the United States.

A memorial to the late Governor Franklin Murphy, to be placed in one of the county parks, is now being designed by sculptors invited to compete for cash prizes. Friends of Governor Murphy have undertaken to erect a fitting memorial as a lasting tribute to his accomplishments as a public official, his devotion to the flag and to the fine quality of character which endeared him to his friends and the citizens generally.

The Commission directed that a study be made for a site suitable for this memorial. Mr. Murphy took a very active interest in the development of Weequahic Park. During his many years of service on the Park Commission he showed a strong attachment for it. The Commission, therefore, deems it fitting that his memorial should be erected in a prominent place in Weequahic Park.

Forestry work in South Mountain and Eagle Rock Reservations was conducted in accordance with the policy adopted some years ago. Thinning out of dead trees, undergrowth and brush was done as conditions permitted. 267 cords of wood were thus obtained and sold.

The State Fire Warden was invited to visit the reservations to suggest further forest fire protection. Upon his visit he inspected the fire-fighting equipment and discussed the fire hazards within and without the reserva-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

tions. The Fire Warden's suggestions for further fire protection were carried out. As an added precaution, placards, printed in red, soliciting the co-operation of the public to prevent fire, were conspicuously posted throughout the reservations. Cards, requesting residents in the vicinity to promptly report any fire within or without the reservations, were distributed by the Park Police.

During the year 5,650 shrubs, ferns and wild flowers were planted in the South Mountain Reservation under the supervision of Mr. Herbert Durand, who was engaged by the Commission to direct the work of setting out wild flowers and flowering shrubs throughout the reservation. The report made by Mr. Durand this fall is most encouraging. The character of the blooms next spring will determine the practicability of carrying further this method of introducing into the reservation large quantities of native wild flowers.

Approximately 100,000 plants were raised in the greenhouse for the formal gardens and flower beds in the parks. The Commission noted, with a great deal of pleasure, that classes from the schools near the parks visited the gardens with their teachers. It is gratifying to know that very little vandalism was committed in these beauty spots.

The employment of convalescent World War veterans at re-educational occupations was undertaken by the Commission in co-operation with the United States Veterans' Bureau. Several veterans were employed during the season.

Following a petition made by horseback riders and residents of the vicinity of Orange Park, plans were prepared for the construction of a bridle path along the easterly side of the park. The path will be constructed

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

next spring and will add another enjoyable feature to Orange Park.

The annual inspection of the parks by the Commission was held June 13th. Chief Justice Gummere, General R. Heber Breintnall, and Edwin Ball, Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, inspected the parks and reviewed the police drill at Weequahic Park as the guests of the Commission.

The resignation of Mr. Alonzo Church as Secretary and Counsel to the Commission was received with much regret. Mr. Church was appointed Secretary to the Preliminary Park Board in 1894, Secretary to the Permanent Board in 1895, Counsel to the Board in 1908, and he served as Secretary and Counsel until April 17, 1922.

At a meeting of the Park Commission, April 13, 1922, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"The Commission has received with deep regret the resignation of Alonzo Church, the Secretary of the Commission since its organization, tendered because of his appointment as Vice Chancellor. The circumstances prevent the Commission from requesting the withdrawal of the resignation and it must be accepted. In taking this action the Commission desires to put on record an expression of the high regard in which Mr. Church is held by the Commission and of the appreciation of the Commission of his faithful and efficient service during the many years of official relationship. The Commission at the same time extends to Mr. Church congratulations upon his selection to the high office of Vice Chancellor and expresses the hope that the future may have for him in his new field of work, long years of health and happiness for himself and of useful service to the State."

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Mr. David I. Kelly, who has been associated with the Commission as Director of Recreation since 1906, was appointed Secretary to succeed Mr. Church. Mr. J. H. Harrison was appointed Counsel.

The large demand for permits to hold picnics, athletic meets, baseball and football games and community celebrations, made it necessary to arrange permit schedules for several of the parks. To accommodate the schools and the industrial leagues, the hours of play were re-arranged and extended.

The gamefields were used from May until December. The field houses were open daily from 9 A. M. until dark.

To meet the demand for facilities for athletic training, the playground athletic fields were opened to adults before and after playground hours. The running tracks were put in good condition. Lights will be installed at the fields when funds permit, so that adults may use the tracks up to 10 P. M.

The popularity of the playgrounds is reflected in the record of attendance. The usual playground activities were conducted under the direction of teachers. The children's parties, inaugurated a few years ago, were held during August. The parties were the most interesting feature from the children's standpoint. The Commission furnished transportation and refreshments. The children furnished the entertainment. Each group presented its best in drills, games and dances. The boys contended for athletic and baseball championships. The fine, friendly spirit evidenced at the parties demonstrated the value of the work accomplished by the teachers. Basketry and sewing work was exhibited by each group at the parties. Each year the parents show considerable interest and attend the parties in large numbers. Teachers' confer-

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ences were held each week. The problems of the playgrounds were discussed and instructions given in games and dances. The playgrounds were open from May until November. Teachers were employed during the school vacation periods.

The statistical report shows the many recreational activities conducted during the season. It is quite impossible to keep a record of the vast number of people that visit and enjoy the parks and reservations. The newspapers have featured for public information the beauties of the parks and the park events of public interest. The editorial comments were helpful to the Commission and informing to the public.

On September 8th, 9th and 11th the National Junior and Senior Championship Games of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States were held at Weequahic Park. The three days' events were the most spectacular set of games held in this country. Several of the officials stated that the games surpassed the Olympic Games in attendance, in the beauty of the setting and in the arrangements made for conducting the events. Several national championship records were shattered, eleven new champions were proclaimed and eight title holders successfully defended their titles. 700 contestants participated and over 70,000 persons witnessed the games. The police report that 10,000 automobiles were parked around the track and in the park. The Decathlon was held September 11th to select the all-around national athletic champion for the year. The games were conducted under the auspices of the Newark Athletic Club and were free to the public.

The golf course at Weequahic Park was used far beyond the limit for comfortable play. 60,178 players used

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

the course during the season. The notices and bulletins posted at the field house show active and friendly co-operative action of the players. The Commission received a petition, signed by several thousand citizens, requesting that an 18-hole public golf course be constructed in the county. The Board advised the committee that presented the petition to devote their efforts to secure legislation authorizing the necessary appropriation and to secure the approval of the citizens of the county for the proposed development.

The Road Horse Association of New Jersey held thirteen matinees at Weequahic Park with an attendance of 58,300. Long before the hour for starting, people filled the grand stand and occupied the slopes of the hills that form a natural amphitheatre. Automobiles were parked around the track, sometimes two deep. During the races and between heats, a band furnished by the City of Newark, further enlivened the joyous spirit of the crowds. On several occasions an athletic meet was conducted on the infield of the race track simultaneously with the trotting races.

Nothing short of an aeroplane photograph of the park can give a comprehensive picture of so many pleasure-giving pastimes amid the formal and natural beauties of the park. Golf, boating, tennis, horse-racing, baseball, the cheering crowds, the shades of green and color hues of the flowers and foliage against the background of the sky or mirrored in the lake, each in turn attract attention.

The Irvington Miniature Yacht Club was given permission to hold a regatta on Weequahic Park Lake. A triangular course was laid out. The races were conducted under the regulation rules. The design of many of the models was patterned after the cup defenders. The care

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

with which every detail was followed shows that there is much more than pleasure attached to the enthusiasm of model yacht sailing. The Commission strongly favors this feature and will endeavor to encourage adults and boys to participate in the sport. The regattas at Weequahic and Irvington parks were attended by several hundred enthusiastic spectators.

Canoe club regattas were held at Verona, Weequahic and Branch Brook Parks. Each canoe club is permitted to hold an annual regatta. The regattas at Verona and Branch Brook Parks provided entertainment to large crowds that lined the shores of the lakes. The tilting contest afforded much amusement.

Trout fishing in Meadow Brook stream in South Mountain Reservation seemed to increase in popularity. 1349 permits were issued. The Fish and Game Commission stocked the stream with 500 rainbow trout each week. The portion of the stream set aside for fly casting was also stocked. Fishermen, young and old, vied with each other along the stream to get the largest trout. Many and varied are the fish stories related by the young fishermen. Here manufacturers of fishing tackle will find many an ingenious copy of their expensive rods, and frequently experienced trout fishermen find that the small boy, with his home-made tackle, carries home the biggest trout.

Fishing was permitted in the lakes at Branch Brook and Weequahic Parks. Permits are not required. Compliance with the regulations of the State Fish and Game Commission is necessary. The lakes were stocked with bass and pickerel. Fishing in the lakes is permitted only from boats.

The deer in Weequahic Park and South Mountain Reservation attracted considerable attention, especially

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

from the children. The animals have become quite tame. They seek the morsels of food pushed through the fence to them by the children. The Christmas number of a newspaper contained a picture of Santa Claus with harness upon his arm standing near the herd of deer in South Mountain Reservation. Under the picture was a statement, informing the children that the picture was taken as Santa Claus was getting ready to harness the deer they had often seen in the reservation.

The trails in the reservations and the bridle paths in Branch Brook Park were used to much larger extent than heretofore. The opportunity to ride for miles on soft roads through the woodlands of the reservations and the shaded stretches of Branch Brook Park has induced many to take up horse-back riding.

The Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations were permitted to take hikes through the reservations and to conduct scout activities. The Boy Scout Police Force, organized last year, was continued. The Commission plans to extend this work next year and to co-operate with the Scout executives to develop in the boys a proprietary interest in the reservations.

The value of the parks in stimulating efforts for community celebrations was shown again this year. The Community Chorus of the Oranges arranged for a community festival at Orange Park. Due to a severe thunderstorm just prior to starting the festival, it was necessary to hold the exercises in a nearby church. The successful work of Mrs. F. W. Tooker, under whose leadership the Community Chorus was organized, was related in last year's report. The idea will, no doubt, be taken up by other communities and concerts will be given in other county parks.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

A band concert and Independence Day celebration was held in Watsessing Park under the auspices of the First Ward Local Interest Club of East Orange. Over 4,000 took part in the celebration. The program included speaking, a baseball game, an athletic meet, patriotic exercises and a firework display in the evening.

The Bloomfield Board of Trade conducted an Independence Day celebration and athletic meet in the Bloomfield end of Watsessing Park. It was estimated that over 5,000 participated. Patriotic exercises, speaking and athletic games made up an interesting and pleasing program.

Elaborate Independence Day celebrations were held in Weequahic, Eastside, Westside and Branch Brook Parks by the City of Newark. School children, civic organizations and city officials participated. The celebrations attracted thousands of spectators.

The large number of people that visited the parks and reservations during the year have for the most part been very orderly and well-behaved. There is, however, a careless and thoughtless few who add needless expense to the cost of maintaining the parks. Papers and refuse thrown upon the lawns and walks make the parks unsightly and cause expense. The Commission instructed the police to request the offenders to co-operate with the Commission. An appeal for co-operation to prevent littering of the parks will be sent to the schools and industrial plants in the vicinity of the parks.

Sixty-four band concerts were given during the season at the following parks: Branch Brook, Weequahic, Eastside, Westside, Watsessing, Bloomfield, Orange and Verona. The record of attendance indicates that the concerts were enjoyed and appreciated.

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The Commission is pleased to relate that the Park Police Department imbibed the spirit of competition from the daily supervision of the competitive sports. The department competed with the New Jersey State Police in swimming and revolver shooting. The Park Police defeated the State Police in the 50-yard, 100-yard and half-mile swim, and in slow and rapid revolver shooting. At the return match at Trenton, N. J., the Park Police again defeated the State Police. The Park Police defeated the revolver team of the Essex Troop three times this year.

Four Park Police mounts were entered in the Newark Horse Show and were awarded first, second and fourth prize. First and second prize were awarded to the mounts at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club Horse Show. Two silver cups were presented to the Department.

The Commission commends the members of the Police Force for the records made in swimming and revolver shooting during the year. The awards for shooting, made up to date, are as follows: 25 gold bars, 3 expert silver medals, 6 silver bars, 1 silver marksman's bar, 2 bronze medals and 2 bronze bars.

The report of the Treasurer and a table of playground statistics are hereto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT S. SINCLAIR,
P. SANFORD ROSS,
JOHN R. HARDIN,
EDWARD W. JACKSON,
ALLISON DODD.

Treasurer's Report

*The Treasurer submits herewith
a tabulated statement of the
receipts and expenditures for the
year ending December 31, 1922*

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

CONSTRUCTION, 1922

RECEIPTS

Liberty Bonds on hand January 1, 1922.....	\$100,000.00
Cash on hand January 1, 1922.....	44,130.36
Received from Essex County.....	\$399,042.90
Interest	5,973.20
	405,016.10
	\$549,146.46

DISBURSEMENTS

LAND:

Speedway	\$14,343.32
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PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Westside Park.....	\$43,406.60
Grover Cleveland Park.....	17,184.25
Vailsburg Park.....	65,633.37
Belleville Park.....	16,607.95
Verona Park.....	8,307.54
South Mountain Reservation.....	3,633.29
Speedway	6,372.69
	161,145.69

ITEMS

Grading	4,000.61
Paving and Sewerage.....	13,628.38
Trees and Plants.....	4,968.81
Labor	99,446.84
Tools and Implements.....	2,441.28
Buildings and Bridges.....	34,905.87
Fences and fountains.....	1,753.90
	\$161,145.69

OFFICE:

Expenses incidental to appraisals of lands, searching of titles and legal expenses	\$2,089.73
Architects and Engineers.....	24,570.08
	26,659.81
Cash on hand December 31, 1922.....	346,997.64
	\$549,146.46

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

MAINTENANCE, 1922

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1922.....		\$252.46
Received from Essex County.....	\$509,000.00	
Rents	16,575.13	
Interest	1,300.00	
Miscellaneous	7,275.34	
		534,150.47
		534,402.93

DISBURSEMENTS

PARKS, RESERVATIONS AND PARKWAYS:

Branch Brook Park.....	\$154,498.63	
Weequahic Park.....	88,836.36	
Eastside Park.....	13,815.84	
Westside Park.....	21,872.86	
Orange Park.....	15,380.74	
Watsessing Park.....	31,140.50	
Anderson Park.....	7,038.35	
Riverbank Park.....	7,003.56	
Irvington Park.....	12,011.91	
Glenfield Park.....	11,046.67	
Grover Cleveland Park.....	2,429.46	
Yanticaw Park.....	11,268.44	
Vailsburg Park.....	1,181.10	
Belleville Park.....	3,253.75	
Verona Park.....	2,284.06	
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	14,552.93	
South Mountain Reservation.....	56,090.82	
East Orange Parkway.....	18,924.87	
Park Avenue.....	29,706.70	
Prospect Avenue.....	4,318.11	
		506,655.66

ITEMS

Wages—Policemen	\$83,089.25
Wages—Laborers	256,473.03
Tools and supplies—Superintendent.	151,165.21
Tools and supplies—Police.....	15,928.17

\$506,655.66

OFFICE:

Traveling	400.00
Stationery and Printing.....	3,687.62
Office Supplies.....	938.71
Salaries	16,416.54
Rents and Telephones.....	5,753.17

Cash on hand December 31, 1922.....

27,196.04
551.23

\$534,402.93

JOHN R. HARDIN, *Treasurer.*

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

STATEMENT OF PARK POLICE PENSION FUND

December 31, 1922

Cash	\$ 2,510.51
Bond and Mortgage.....	70,000.00
Liberty Bonds.....	3,000.00
	\$75,510.51
Contributions	\$ 5,556.27
Assessments.....	19,252.67
Fines	350.04
Excess Wages.....	949.74
Essex County Park Commission.....	29,048.04
Interest	19,886.43
Interest—Liberty Bonds.....	467.32
	\$75,510.51

We have examined the Records and Vouchers of the Essex County Park Commission for the year ended December 31, 1922, and certify that the foregoing Statements of Receipts and Disbursements of Construction, Maintenance, and Park Police Pension Fund are correct summaries thereof. Cash on hand was verified by count and the amounts on deposit were confirmed by Certificate obtained from the Depositaries. We examined the Investment Securities of the Park Police Pension Fund.

LOVEJOY, MATHER, HOUGH & STAGG.

Kinney Building
Newark, New Jersey,
March 7, 1923.

STATISTICS

The following statistical report was prepared from the daily reports submitted by the police, playground instructors and gamefield attendants:

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

ATHLETIC MEETS

	<i>Parks</i>	<i>Contestants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Bloomfield High School.....	Watsessing	75	350
Irvington High School.....	Irvington	50	300
Eastside High School.....	Eastside	300	500
Eastside High School.....	Eastside	400	650
Standard Oil Co.....	Weequahic	350	4,000
Rotary Club.....	Weequahic	600	3,500
Prudential Insurance Co.....	Weequahic	200	4,000
Young Men's Hebrew Association..	Weequahic	250	1,500
Insurance & Bankers League.....	Weequahic	..	8,000
Irvington High School.....	Irvington	60	400
Bloomfield Board of Trade.....	Watsessing	..	5,000
Prudential Branch Office.....	Weequahic	25	200
Newark Star-Eagle, for Women..	Weequahic	500	30,000
Colored Association	Weequahic	80	700
Pennsylvania Railroad Employees..	Weequahic	91	300
		<u>2,981</u>	<u>59,400</u>

BICYCLE RACES

	<i>Contestants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Bay View Wheelman.....	100	5,000

FIELD DAY EXERCISES

	<i>Parks</i>	<i>Contestants</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Holy Name Church of East Orange	Watsessing	100	1,500
Bloomfield Public Schools.....	Watsessing	200	300
Montclair Public Schools.....	Glenfield	..	1,100
Irvington Public Schools.....	Irvington	..	1,500
Park Playgrounds.....	Watsessing	..	1,200
Bloomfield Lyceum Track Team....	Watsessing	..	650
Park Playgrounds	Belleville	..	2,000
Union County Public Schools.....	Weequahic	3,000	5,000
		<u>3,300</u>	<u>13,250</u>

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

	<i>Attendance</i>
Branch Brook Park.....	1,000
Weequahic Park.....	15,000
Eastside Park.....	2,000
Westside Park.....	2,000
Watsessing Park (East Orange end).....	5,000
Watsessing Park (Bloomfield end).....	4,000
	<u>29,000</u>

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

BAND CONCERTS

<i>Parks</i>	<i>No. of Concerts</i>	<i>Attend- ance</i>
Branch Brook.....	19	74,700
Weequahic	9	41,000
Eastside	11	28,200
Westside	13	44,700
Orange	7	28,500
Riverbank	1	3,500
Glenfield	2	4,500
Verona	2	2,500
	64	227,600

GAMEFIELDS

	FOOTBALL		BASEBALL	
	<i>Players</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Players</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Branch Brook Park—				
Middle Division.....	3,525	26,284	7,044	175,000
Northern Division.....	845	9,474	6,166	80,300
Watsessing Park.....	250	3,560	665	2,980
Bloomfield Addition.....	445	6,878	342	2,521
Irvington Park.....	490	2,525	330	1,643
Weequahic Park.....	2,500	10,500	6,012	40,300
Eastside Park.....	221*	...	...	...
Glenfield Park.....	165*	...	120*	...

* Practice—Schools and clubs.

TENNIS

	<i>Players</i>
Branch Brook Park.....	4,114
Westside Park.....	2,320
Watsessing Park.....	85
Eastside Park.....	750
Irvington Park.....	286
Weequahic Park.....	11,254
Anderson Park.....	86
Orange Park.....	20
Belleville Park.....	121

GOLF

	<i>Players</i>
Weequahic	60,178

SKATING—WINTER OF 1922-1923

	<i>Number of Skaters</i>
Branch Brook Park—25 days.....	101,200
Weequahic Park—26 days.....	129,650
Westside Park—25 days.....	54,100
Watsessing Park—21 days.....	17,850
Irvington Park—20 days.....	13,300
Grover Cleveland Park—19 days.....	9,200
Verona Park—20 days.....	47,100

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

RUNNING TRACKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

<i>Parks</i>	
Branch Brook.....	6,560
Westside	2,765
Watsessing	722
Eastside	300
Irvington	390
Glenfield	825
Weequahic	1,225
Riverbank	101

CRICKET

<i>Parks</i>	<i>Players</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Branch Brook.....	1,130	2,120
Watsessing	430	2,325

HOCKEY

<i>Parks</i>	<i>Players</i>
Branch Brook	125
Weequahic	82
Irvington	270
Yanticaw	810

Attendance not recorded.

WADING POOLS (Open July 1—September 15)

<i>Parks</i>	
Branch Brook.....	88,565
Westside	25,319
Orange	22,020
Riverbank	7,979
Glenfield	3,140
Watsessing	4,656
Yanticaw	2,887
Weequahic	4,665
Irvington*	8,176
Belleville	3,433

*Closed Saturday afternoons to permit miniature yacht races.

BATHING

	<i>No. of Bathers</i>
Verona Park.....	12,211

PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

PLAYGROUNDS

The playgrounds were open from May 1st to October 15th. During the school session the playgrounds were open from 3 to 6 P. M., and from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays and holidays. During school vacation the playgrounds were open from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the direction of Instructors and Instructresses, who report the attendance and activities as follows:

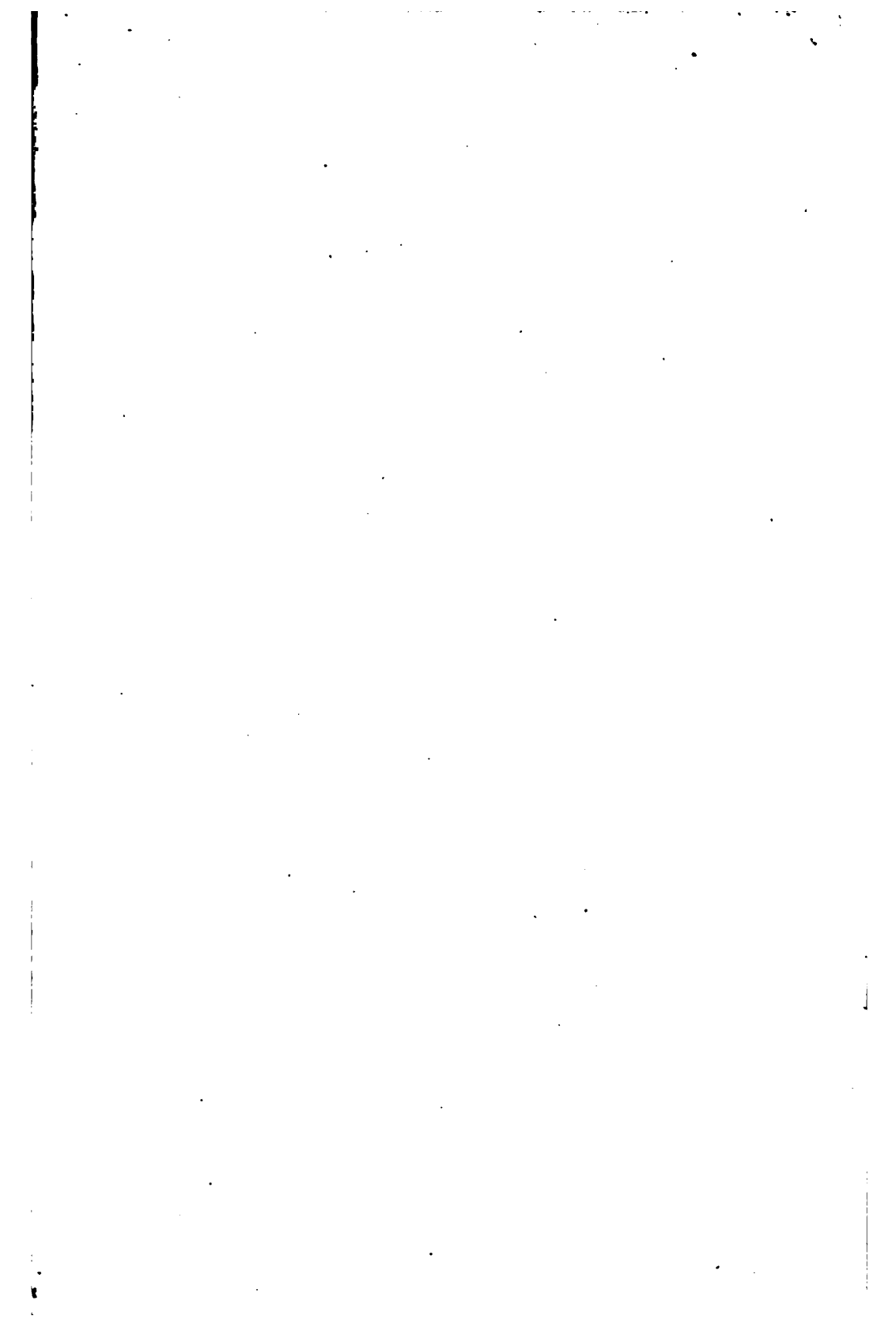
	Days	Playground	Games	Sand Court	Apparatus	Track
JULY						
Branch Brook.....	26	26,700	7,576	6,280	12,986	1,175
Eastside	26	19,541	8,564	4,882	11,768	626
Westside	26	22,169	9,823	3,234	12,679	819
Orange	26	21,387	8,644	4,016	9,177	323
Watsessing	26	8,462	3,211	2,929	2,085	108
Bloomfield Addition..	26	11,146	6,899	3,540	2,884	...
Riverbank	26	15,071	6,389	512	6,972	...
Irvington	26	6,021	2,541	1,686	4,012	384
Glenfield	26	9,589	4,100	1,276	6,357	425
Weequahic	26	4,526	2,171	1,524	2,556	...
Yanticaw	26	3,927	3,448	1,039	1,172	...
*Belleville	26	7,452	5,161	2,045	1,260	...
AUGUST						
Branch Brook.....	27	27,900	6,907	6,800	13,544	1,186
Eastside	27	20,484	9,897	4,942	12,401	813
Westside	27	23,299	10,134	4,344	12,070	875
Orange	27	22,432	9,445	4,989	9,647	380
Watsessing	27	9,375	4,007	3,122	2,143	99
Bloomfield Addition..	27	11,988	6,946	3,606	3,800	...
Riverbank	27	14,875	6,332	500	6,995	...
Irvington	27	6,000	2,620	1,766	4,223	305
Glenfield	27	9,989	4,071	1,100	6,559	338
Weequahic	27	4,591	2,222	1,342	3,055	...
Yanticaw	27	4,125	3,584	1,168	2,995	...
*Belleville	27	9,857	6,689	1,874	3,433	...

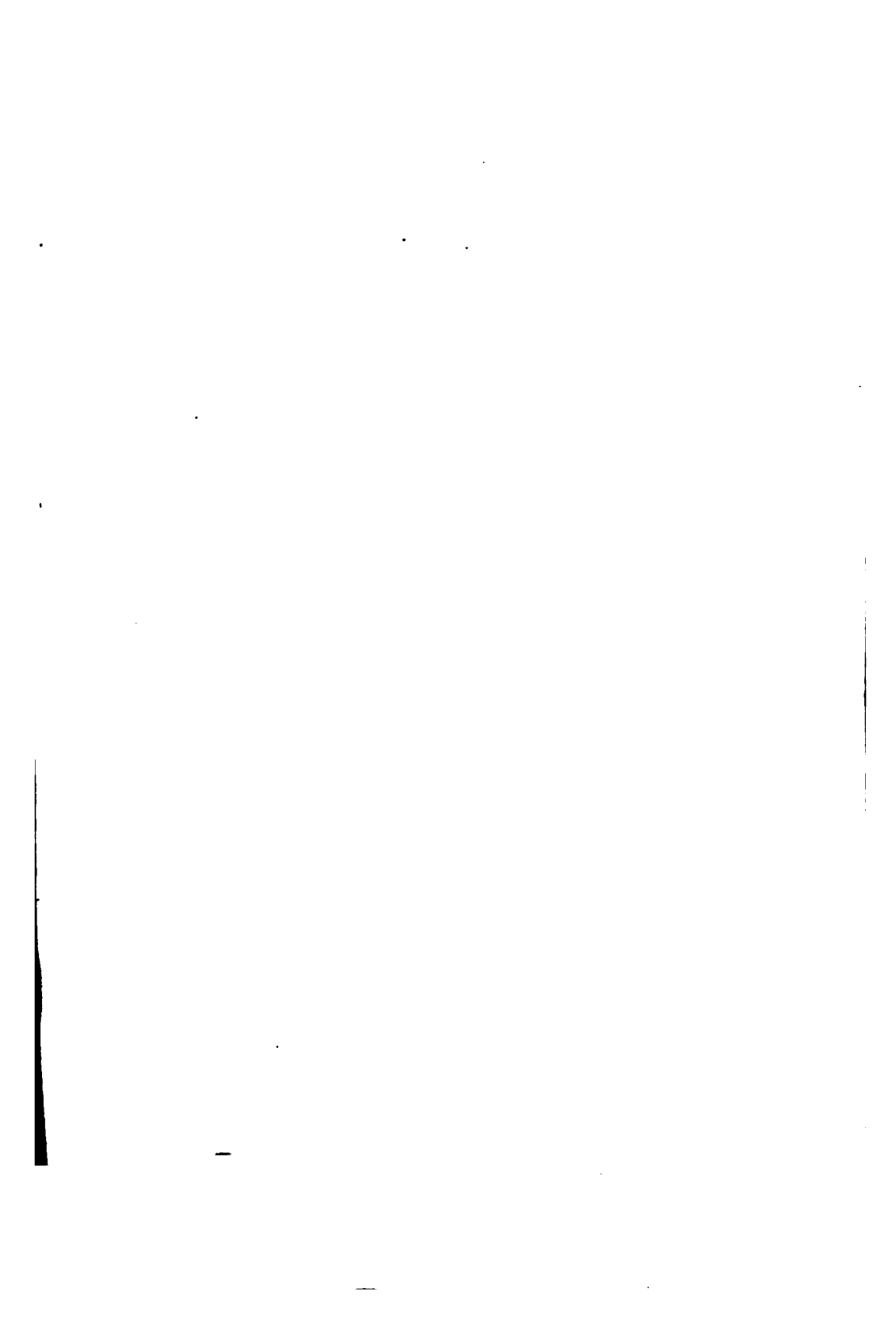
*Belleville just started.

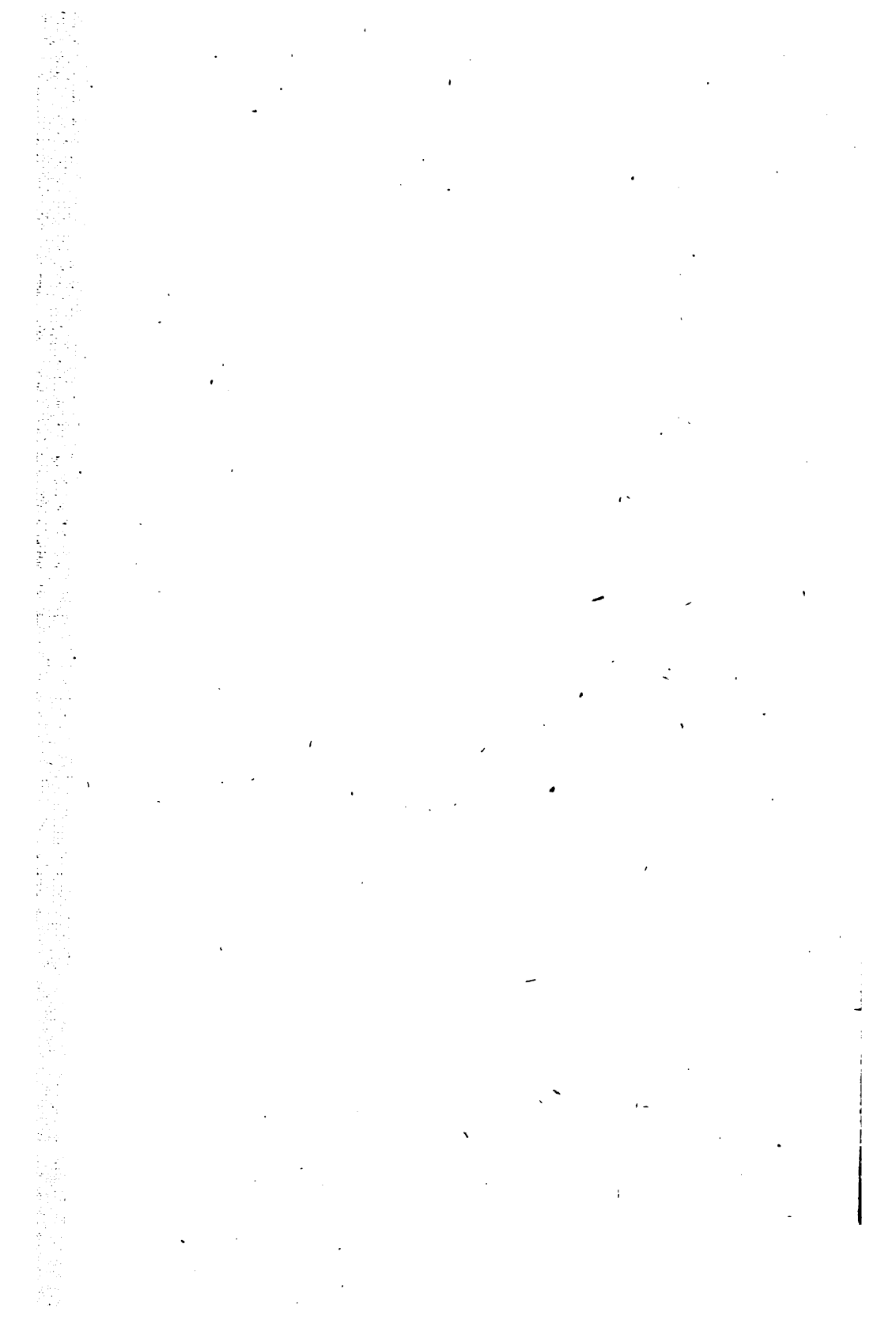


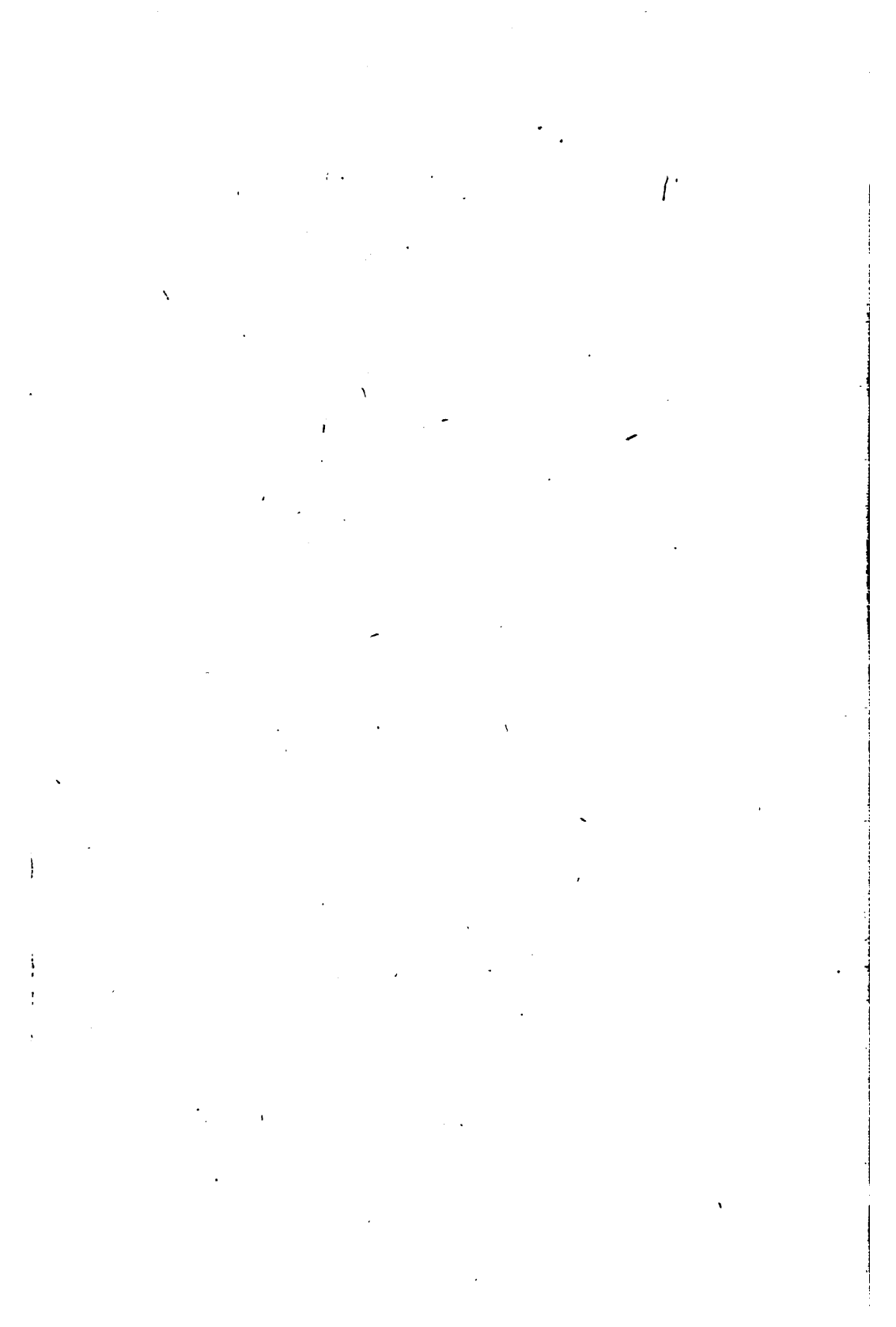




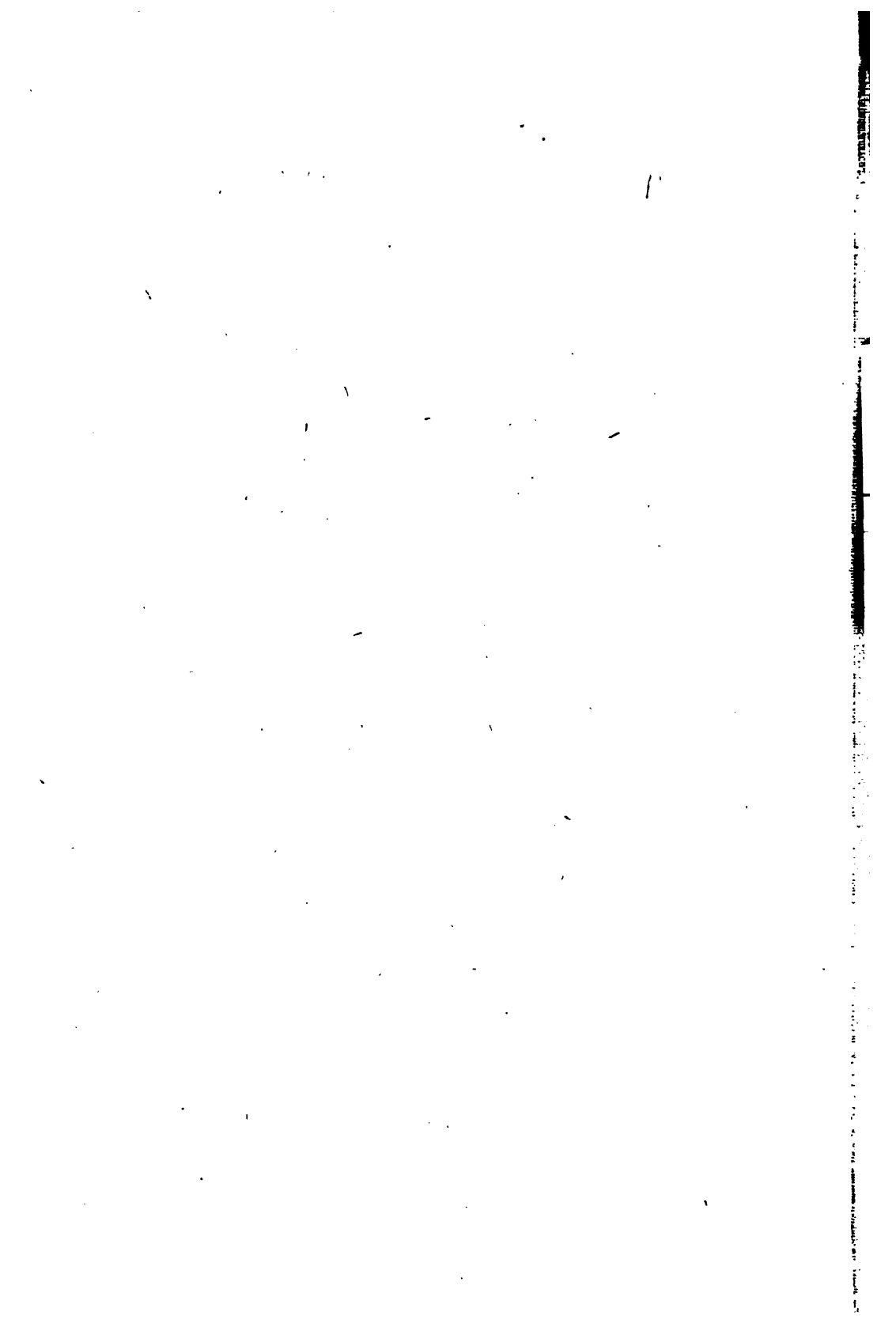








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